



# Louisiana

## CONFERENCE *edition*

Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
504.346.1646  
/504.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

Vol 15 No 2 ■ January 9, 1998

018000

Send P.O. Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

# Mission in Motion mobilizes to move across Louisiana Conference

By Bobbie Armstrong  
LUM Review Editor

It is being said that God is moving in the Louisiana Conference of The United Methodist Church. In February, however, everyone — even non-Methodists — will be able to see that literally as a 40-foot, 18-wheeled tractor-trailer bearing the UM cross and flame and the words "Mission in Motion" (see graphic, below) begins its nine-month journey down Louisiana's highways and biways.

Mission in Motion (MIM) is an innovative, pioneering pilot plan to meet the challenge of keeping the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) Depot at the Sager-Brown facility in Baldwin stocked with relief supplies for shipment anywhere in the world there is a need. Each month the rolling collection trailer will travel to a different district, rest in a designated church parking lot for a week, accept relief supplies from all the UM churches in the surrounding area and then move on to another church. At the end of its month in the district, the rig will be taken to the depot and unloaded with the help of volunteers. Then, it's on to the next district.

Dave Freneaux, a lay member at Blackwater UMC in Baker, has been appointed by Bishop Dan E. Solomon as conference coordinator of the program. Each district will also have a coordinator selected by the district superintendent. Local church coordinators

who are chosen by pastors will provide the vital link to congregations around the state.

MIM's purpose, says Freneaux, is 1) to minister to the immediate physical needs of the hurting in Jesus' name, 2) to involve United Methodists in hands-on mission work, and 3) to promote increased and continued participation in missions through UMCOR and Sager-Brown. It was born out of Bishop Solomon's visit to the 48,000 sq ft-depot when he first came to the Louisiana Conference in 1996 as its episcopal leader and also as president of the General Board of Global Ministries, the UM board which governs UMCOR. He and his wife Joy saw thousands of empty shelves and decided it was time to find a way to fill them.

What MIM gives Louisiana United Methodists is a close-up and personal opportunity to meet a human need, show compassion and help others. "This project allows every United Methodist in Louisiana to make a choice to be in mission, to enliven herself or himself and his or her church" says Bishop Solomon. "The gifts will be great for both the giver and the receiver as we share God's love with those in need around the world."

The spirit of giving is already alive in this project. The trailer is being provided to the conference by Davidson Trucking in Ruston. Davidson is refurbishing the trailer, painting the logo on it and providing insurance for the first year.

The opportunities to get involved in

Mission in Motion are many, Freneaux says. Aside from just donating items, people will be needed to publicize the arrival of the trailer at each location, transport donations from churches to the trailer, box items, load the trailer and then unload the goods at Sager-Brown. Drivers with rigs will be needed to move the trailer from location to location.

But perhaps the most vital outcome will be to inspire more Louisiana United Methodists to regularly provide hands-on support at the UMCOR Depot at Sager-Brown where the need is great and ongoing. As the host conference for this vital cog in the wheel that connects The United Methodist Church to those in need around the world, this is an opportunity we can all share in, says Freneaux.

MIM will kick off in the Baton Rouge District Feb. 1 at Blackwater UMC in Baker with Griffon Bourgeois and Gerald Hook as coordinators. Following a week there, it will move to Ingleside UMC and Gonzales UMC. It will go to the North Shore District in March and New Orleans District in April. District designations after that have not been finalized. Items collected will be dictated by UMCOR's need and currently include flood relief supplies and Korean food boxes.

After the MIM plan is worked out in the Louisiana Conference's pilot run, it will be offered to surrounding conferences and possibly nationwide.

Plan now to get involved and to pray for the success of Mission in Motion. Contact Dave Freneaux at (504) 373-9422 for further information.

**MISSION  
IN  
MOTION**

LOUISIANA UNITED METHODIST  
GLOBAL DISASTER RELIEF



Attending the historical first meeting of Mission in Motion were (back row, left to right) Curt Shrewsbury (North Shore Dist.), Don Schaneville (New Orleans Dist.), Dave Freneaux (Conference coordinator), Bishop Dan Solomon, Carl Rhoads (North Shore District), and Joseph Burke (New Orleans Dist.) Front row (left to right): Griffon Bourgeois (Baton Rouge Dist.), Joy Solomon and Chuck Felder (North Shore Dist.).

Photo by Bobbie Armstrong

## Louisiana VIM to celebrate missions at banquet

Louisiana United Methodists are invited to a gala event and banquet celebrating missions and mission volunteers Sunday, Feb. 8 at the Louisiana Conference Center in Woodworth.

There is much to celebrate. For many years many people have labored in short-term Volunteers in Mission work camps on behalf of this conference. As a result, ministry and disaster relief have reached foreign countries, our nation and our conference. The Louisiana Conference also celebrates a new chapter of volunteer mission work this year with the appointment of Dr. Alonzo Campbell as full-time VIM director.

The festivities will begin at 4 pm on Sunday, Feb. 8 as churches and groups which have participated in work camps during 1997 share displays outlining their work and informing us of the continued needs in both foreign, national and Conference locations. (If your church has sponsored or participated in a work camp and has not been contacted, call Janice Johnson at the Conference Office.)

At 4:15 pm, participants will attend up to three 15-minute information sessions outlining volunteer roles in various types

of mission opportunities.

The Volunteers in Mission Banquet featuring Bishop Dan Solomon as keynote speaker will begin at 5 p.m. Bishop Solomon, current president of the General Board of Global Ministries, is a driving force for VIM in the conferences where he has held episcopal appointment. A formal meal will be served along with inspiring words of what is being done as well as a personal challenge to get involved in the numerous mission opportunities the Louisiana Conference will offer in 1998 and beyond.



Registration\* for the Banquet is \$20 per person through advanced registration only. Pastors and churches have invitation/registration forms or you may use the form on page four. Payment must accompany your advanced registration and must be received in the Conference Office no later than February 1.

Please mail registrations to Janice Johnson, 527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Lodging is available on Sunday evening at the Conference Center by calling (318)449-4500.

Register early and come join the fun, excitement and challenge of Volunteers in Mission!





## Being and Doing

### Something Old, Something New

Is the appeal of a New Year that it brings closure to what has gone before or that it brings opportunity for what lies ahead? Perhaps it is some of both.

However we describe it, the New Year is "new." It is new enough to offer us a clear invitation and a distinct opportunity to begin patterns of living that are "new." Not only is this true of individuals, it is also true of congregations.

Consider these new patterns for your congregation:

† A new initiative to help every member of the congregation affirm that life in Christ was given to him/her as a gift and is thereby to be given to others. A fresh focus on "professions of faith" is in keeping with our main mission. Whatever else happens in the congregations, connecting persons with Christ in a redemptive relationship is foundational. Let us move "professions of faith" from the year-end statistical report to the front end of our personal and congregational life. Why do we not have more conversation in Sunday worship about "professions of faith" than we do the rummage sale, bazaar, car wash, or ski trip? How often do you hear "profession of faith" conversations in your congregation?

† A new emphasis on "hands-on-mission involvement," especially Volunteers In Mission. The evidence is overwhelming that persons who participate in VIM encounter God's presence and power in ways that renew one's own faith and energize persons to lead their congregation into a deeper mission experience. VIM is working! VIM is laity ministry that is effective, fulfilling, missional and commendable. Since there is so much evidence that VIM is changing lives and changing churches, is it not urgent that every pastor and every



church leader push hard for dozens of persons in every congregation to

participate in VIM?

† A new pattern of payment of apportionments, or connectional ministries. Many churches are using the First Fruits plan. The plan works! First Fruits means that a congregation totals its full apportionments, divides by 52 and then sends the weekly amount every Monday to the Conference Office for disbursement to the appropriate missions and ministries. Several churches are using effectively their own variation of the First Fruits plan. Whatever the plan, when a congregation meets its outreach commitment for others prior to caring for its own needs, it models for its membership a pattern of living and giving that is filled with blessings, joy and results. (See related story, this page.)

† A new willingness to work and risk in order to reach people for Christ and in Christ's name. We have many United Methodist congregations who want to "talk" about "fishing"; we have some that "do" fishing; we have others that "catch" fish. The congregations that are catching fish (persons for Christ) are coupling their desire to reach persons with strategies such as new worship styles, small groups, mission projects, after-school programs, cell groups, fellowship and recreation ministries, multi-faceted ministries, etc.

It is exciting to commence the first hours and days of a New Year. Even more exciting is commencing new ministry initiatives in the name of the Christ who makes all things new.

*Dan E. Solomon*

Dan E. Solomon



## Spotlight on Children in Need

**Editors note:** Please let us know what your church is doing to reach Children in Need so we can share it with others in the Louisiana Conference.

### Conference to focus on children's ministry

NASHVILLE, TN — "Nurturing Children's Spirituality," a children's ministry conference, will be held here March 30 - April 2, 1998 at the Scarritt-Bennett Center. The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church is cosponsoring the conference.

The conference will focus on ways to nurture children as they grow spiritually, emotionally and mentally. Effective parenting and mentoring will be discussed. The conference will also include time for group workshops, networking, and worship experiences.

Leaders include Mary Alice Gran, director of Children's Ministries for the General Board of Discipleship of the United

Methodist Church; MaryJane Pierce-Norton, director in family ministries on the Family & Life-Span Ministries Team for the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church; Susan Groseclose, minister of programs at Calvary United Methodist Church in Nashville; and Robert Havens, associate pastor of Homestead United Methodist Church in Rochester, Minn.

Pre-registration is required. Program fee is \$150, with an additional fee of \$156 for meals and lodging. Commuter cost is \$48, which includes six meals. For more information, call Roela Rivera or Helen Powell at (615) 340-7545 or (615) 340-7472.

## Stepping out on faith

### Giving by 'first fruits': An amazing thing to behold!

by Rev. Ken Graham  
Pastor, First UMC, LaPlace

"How can we pay our apportionments when we can barely pay our bills?" This was the initial and legitimate response one year ago at First United Methodist Church of LaPlace when we received a letter from Bishop Solomon encouraging us to pay our apportionments in full. After all, it had been several years since we had managed to pay them in full. And besides we were improving. We paid 0% in 1994, 10% in 1995 and a little over 30% in 1996. In spite of our improvement, we were at the bottom of the heap conference-wide when it came to paying apportionments. Bishop Solomon's request seemed to us to be "Mission Impossible."

What made this request unique, however, was that it included a plan to accomplish 100% payment of our apportionments. The plan was called First Fruits. First Fruits involved taking the total amount of the annual apportionment and dividing it by 52. Each week, before we paid any other bills (electric bill, insurance), made building repairs or even paid the pastor and staff, we would pay our apportionments.

And so, at the December 1996 Administrative Council meeting we had what the Administrative Council chair called a spirited discussion concerning Bishop Solomon's request. We were just about to vote to make an increase over what we paid in 1996 instead of participating in First Fruits.

Then, a lay person on the Council spoke up. He said that as the leadership of the church, we expected our members

to pay their tithes and offerings to the church first. "How," he asked, "can the church do any different?" That changed the entire tone of the meeting. Before we knew it, First Fruits was adopted as the official policy of First UMC, LaPlace.

Much to our surprise, January came and went and we paid our apportionments for January in full and no bill went unpaid. In fact, we had money left over. And that is the way it went all through the first five months of the year. However, summer was coming and we all know what happens to church giving in the summer. But, not to us this year. Giving stayed strong and we continued to pay our apportionments weekly. By August we were getting confident and we began to believe that "Mission Impossible" was now "Mission Possible." At the end of 1997, giving had already covered our total budget for the year and we even have several thousand dollars more in the bank than we did last year at this time.

As the leadership and the congregation look back, it is obvious that God has done something in our church this year we did not think we could do. We decided to be faithful to our commitment and God moved. It was an amazing thing to behold!

I had preached many times that if someone wanted their faith to grow, they needed to take on something larger, something that could never happen unless God intervened. The good news is we did and then God did. Our faith and our confidence in God is stronger than ever before and still growing. Praise be to God!

**Editor's note:** Over the next few issues, we will share several churches' experience with the First Fruits plan for paying apportionments. Watch for their stories here!

## Children, youth donate coins to cross

Children and youth of the Louisiana Conference were given a special invitation for Epiphany (Jan. 6) to fill coin cards to help construct the Children's Cross at the Louisiana Conference Center at Woodworth. As the wise men brought gifts to the Christ child, the children were urged to give a gift in honor of the Lord who has given to them.

Pastors at local churches have the coin



Children's Cross

holders, if you are interested in contributing but have not received a holder.

Anyone can contribute. Checks will be accepted and should be made out to the Louisiana Annual Conference and designated for the "Conference Center Children's Cross."

Contact Carolyn Dove at (888) 239-5286 for more information. All donations should be mailed by Jan. 15.

## NAME THAT PAPER

We're still looking for your input about our name, but the search will end this month.

Do you think we should change it to something else instead of *The Louisiana Conference Edition of The United Methodist Review*?

Got a great idea for a name? Or, do you think we should not change the name? Let us know. Write to: Editor, LUM Review, 527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.



## Louisiana Volunteers in Mission

### Moments in Mission

*Editor's note: Cathy Rando, member of Evangeline UMC, Baton Rouge, was introduced to VIM work at Heifer Project International. As she traveled home from that work camp, she wrote the following:*

#### BLINDERS

Like a carriage horse  
plodding the city streets,  
my blinders keep me safe  
and comfortable.

I can focus on my tasks  
never stopping to ask if  
those tasks made a difference  
to anyone.

Don't look to the left--  
I may see the homeless  
with hands outreached.

Don't look to the right--  
I may see a hungry child.

But wait, my blinders  
are slipping off.

The bright light hurts  
my eyes.  
I feel confused, no  
longer focused  
no longer safe and  
comfortable.

Part of me wants the blinders  
back--but a deeper, stronger  
part is excited about this  
new vision.

Lord, grant me the courage  
to continue my walk  
without the safety of my blinders.

I turn my eyes to you  
and ask for your guidance.  
Let me look at them and  
see you. Let them look  
at me and see you. Amen.

### In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to:  
the family of Mrs. Bettye Bagnierise  
Wethers, surviving spouse of Rev. Carl  
T. Wethers (Baton Rouge District),  
who died Dec. 20. Her funeral was  
held Dec. 24 at Camphor UMC, Baton  
Rouge. She was buried at Port  
Hudson with her husband. The family  
has requested donations be made in  
her honor to the Children and Youth  
Ministries at Camphor.

the family of Rev. Clarence B.  
Krumnow, retired, who died Dec. 26  
in San Antonio, Texas. His funeral  
was held in Perry, Texas Dec. 29.

Rev. William Eubanks, pastor, First  
UMC, Hammond (North Shore  
District), on the death of his sister, Ms.  
Mary Frances Holt, Nov. 17.

## MSCOS registration for April courses ends February 1

February 1, 1998 is the registration deadline for April 1998 courses in The Mississippi Course of Study School (MSCOS). The School is designed for part-time local pastors. Participants from the Mississippi Conference and surrounding conferences are eligible.

Millsaps College is the host for MSCOS. Millsaps is located on North State between Fortification and Woodrow Wilson in Jackson, Miss.

A \$30 per course registration fee is required. All checks should be made out to Millsaps College.

Courses will be held Friday evening through Saturday afternoon, April 3-4 and 24-25, continuing the new two-weekend design.

### Courses offered April 1998:

#### FIRST YEAR COURSE:

Pastor as Interpreter, Susan Woodard

#### SECOND YEAR COURSE:

Theological Heritage, Don Patterson.

#### THIRD YEAR COURSE:

Church Administration, Jack Loflin.

#### FOURTH YEAR COURSE:

Ethics, Vicki Gary.

#### FIFTH YEAR COURSE:

Counseling, Dorothy Dickson Rishel.

For information on the Mississippi Course of Study School and Course of Study in Israel contact Bert Gary, Millsaps College, P.O. Box 151550, Jackson, Miss. (601) 353-8178.

Email: [bertgary@netdoo.com](mailto:bertgary@netdoo.com) or  
<http://www.netdoor.com/com/umcos>.

## Homage to King



Paying tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. is this unique sculpture by Medina-Campeny at a busy intersection in Atlanta. The late civil rights leader would have been 69 this month. The nation celebrates his birthday Jan. 19.

A UMNS photo by Mark Westmoreland, Wesleyan Christian Advocate.

## Epiphany Ministry goes to J.C.C.Y in March

Epiphany Ministry of Louisiana is looking forward to Epiphany #2 at the Jetson Correctional Center for Youth (J.C.C.Y.) in Baton Rouge. March 6 - 8 is set on the girl's calendar and we are hopeful that this date will be open on your calendar as well.

Team Meetings will be held at Jefferson U.M.C., Baton Rouge, on the following dates and times:

Team Meeting: Saturday, Jan. 24, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Team Meeting: Saturday, Feb. 21, 1:30-4 p.m.\*

\*Held at Baker First UMC following the Star Reunion at J.C.C.Y.

Team Meeting: Saturday, Feb. 28, 9

a.m.-3 p.m.

Team Dedication Service: Thursday, March 5, 6-9 p.m.

J.C.C.Y. now requires every Epiphany team member to have a valid Religious Volunteer Training Card before entering to serve on a weekend. There will be a training session scheduled for February so that team members can acquire a card or renew their annual card. Your card will need to be renewed even if you only plan to attend reunions.

Please send in an application as soon as possible if you want to be a part of this exciting ministry. The team leader for Epiphany # 2 is Beverly Connelly. Contact her at (504) 246-4247.

## Living Well, Dying Well video available

On April 17, 1997, over 4000 individuals at 168 sites coast to coast viewed the teleconference, Living Well, Dying Well, Facing End of Life Decisions. The teleconference, produced by The Iliff School of Theology in cooperation with United Methodist Communications, Health and Welfare Ministries United, United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries and the United Methodist Publishing House, received positive responses from a wide range of viewers including clergy, laity, medical staff and

healthcare professionals.

The Resource Center has available a set of video tapes covering the three segments of the teleconference. A study guide is included with each segment making this series an excellent resource for church and community study groups.

Contact the Resource Center at (888) 329-5286 for rental arrangements or to purchase a set (\$35) contact Iliff at (303) 777-3387.

## Amistad—The Beginning of the Sierra Leone Annual Conference

Steven Spielberg's film won't tell this chapter, but the story of Amistad is also a story of the beginning of the UMC in Sierra Leone.

Spielberg's epic begins in 1839 when 53 Africans, held captive on the Spanish ship Amistad, overpower their captors and force them to sail for their home in what is now Sierra Leone. During the day, the Spaniards sail toward Africa, but at night they reverse course to sail toward Cuba. After 63 days, the ship's zig-zag trip ends in Long Island, N.Y. There a lengthy legal battle finally secures freedom for the former captives. In 1841, 35 survivors of the Amistad affair and five members of the American Missionary Association (AMA) return to Sierra Leone where a mission colony is formed.

In 1855, the Church of the United Brethren in Christ (UBC) also forms a mission station near the AMA camp. UBC ministries increase tremendously under the leadership of Mary and Joseph Gomer, an African-American couple from Ohio who arrive in 1870 and stay for 22 years. By 1882, the AMA turns over to UBC all of its buildings, schools, a farm, a sawmill, and an annual subsidy.

UBC merged in 1946 with the Evangelical Church to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church (EUB), and the EUBs merged with the Methodists in 1968 to form the UMC. The UBC mission in Sierra Leone is now the 85,000-member UM Sierra Leone Annual Conference.

For a more complete story, see The New World Outlook and visit <http://gbgm-umc.org/umhistory/sierra-leone/amistad.html>.

—Darrell Reeck, UM Development Fund

Reprinted from UM Newscope,  
Vol. 24, No. 50.

## DISCIPLE

### DISCIPLE Bible Study training returns to Louisiana

Mark your calendars. DISCIPLE Bible Study training will return to Baton Rouge Aug. 27-29.

Also, in response to popular demand, DISCIPLE is constructing a site on the Internet and invites you to visit for general information, on-line training seminar schedules and registration, sample lessons and order forms for materials.

The address is [www.cokesbury.org/col/](http://www.cokesbury.org/col/).





# AROUND THE CONFERENCE NEWS

## Let's connect . . .

Send us your news (typed copy please) and photos (color okay) to:

Bobbie Armstrong  
Editor  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

## Hodge UMC hosts small church workshop

by Rev. Brian Yeich  
Pastor, Hodge UMC

Monday, November 17, Hodge UMC was proud to host a workshop on Turnaround Strategies for the Small Church. This workshop was sponsored by Hodge UMC, the Ruston District, and the Conference Board of Discipleship. Attended primarily by United Methodists, Hodge was pleased to welcome representatives from the Church of God in Anderson and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. This half-day workshop was led by Dr. Ron Crandall McCreeless (pictured below) Professor of Evangelism at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky.

An ordained elder in the Kentucky Conference of The United Methodist Church, Dr. Crandall has significant local church and denominational experience. He has pastored churches in California and Arizona, and in 1977, he was appointed to The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship where he served as director of evangelism for the local church. Dr. Crandall joined the faculty of Asbury Theological Seminary in 1983. A frequent speaker at seminars, workshops, and conferences, Dr. Crandall is also the author of several books on the subject of evangelism with a special concern for small churches. His books include *Turn-Around Strategies for the Small Church*, *There's New Life in the Small Church* and *The Small Membership Church: Growing, Caring, Serving*. He is



an international leader in the Upper Room's Walk to Emmaus and has published articles on evangelism-related topics in such periodicals as *The Academy for Evangelism Journal* and *The Interpreter*.

The workshop focused on the turnaround strategies that small churches (those under 100 in worship attendance) have used successfully. Dr. Crandall discussed stepping forward into the future, stepping into what the Holy Spirit is doing, stepping over the obstacles, stepping out into mission, and stepping up to be true disciples by developing disciples.

Turnaround churches have pastors who step forward by loving their people, preaching the gospel and modeling the vision for the future. Turnaround churches step into what the Spirit is doing by prayer, worship, small groups and mission experience. Turnaround churches overcome obstacles such as low self esteem, lack of vision and finances. Turnaround churches turn toward others through pastors who see themselves as missionaries and laity who invite, visit and make others truly welcome. Finally, turnaround churches develop Christian disciples by having a transforming focus, by being purpose-driven, by finding their gifts for ministry, and by utilizing small groups.

Those who attended left with a renewed sense of hope and enthusiasm as well as some promising ideas for leading their churches into the future which God has in store.

## Ida UMC participates in Centennial Celebration

by Linda Konrad

Last fall, First UMC of Ida participated in the north Louisiana village's Centennial Celebration.

The UMW group of the 93-year-old church handcrafted tree ornaments, made tote bags, jams, jellies and relishes which they sold out of the basement of the church along with a new edition of their 151-page notebook. Twenty-five percent of the profits were given to the town to help defray the cost of the event.

The women also dressed in period costumes to welcome visitors into their newly-renovated church and enjoyed the ooh's and ahh's as tourists crossed the threshold. They shared the church's and town's history as visitors viewed exquisite displays throughout the church, including quilts which dated back to the Civil War.

Tour buses brought over 100 people from as far away as 40 miles to share in the day's spiritual and captivating celebration.



First UMC, Ida

## VIM Banquet Reservation Form

February 8, 1998 Louisiana Conference Center 4-7 p.m.

Registration form and \$20 per person is due February 1, 1998. All monies must accompany this form in order for us to make the necessary banquet reservations. *Therefore, we will be unable to accept any reservations after February 1.* Please make all checks payable to: Louisiana Annual Conference--VIM Banquet. Mail to Janice Johnson, 527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5700.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ No. of persons attending \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of money enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Louisiana Conference Edition  
of the  
United Methodist Review  
Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

**EDITORIAL TEAM:**  
Leslie N. Akin, Director,  
Gospel Communications  
Bobbie Armstrong, Editor  
Dr. Alonzo J. Campbell, Liz Lucas

Subscriptions \$12.50 per year  
Send subscriptions, news and  
information to:

Editor  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
1(888) 239-5286  
(504)346-1646, (504)383-2652 fax  
e-mail: laumc@premier.net

### On the Web

The Louisiana Annual Conference has a newly revised homepage. You can find us at

<http://www.ghgm-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>

### DEADLINE FOR:

January 23 Issue--January 12  
February 6 Issue--January 26

## Conference Program Calendar

### January 1998

- 10 Shalom Zone, Monroe District
- 15-16 Cabinet Meeting
- 16-18 Happening #11, Conference Center
- 17 Louisiana Task Force on Prison Ministry, 10:30 a.m., Conference Center
- 25 UM Women's Sunday
- 29-Feb. 1 Cursillo #62, Conference Center

### February

- 6-8 Conference Senior High Retreat, Conference Center
- 7 Shalom Zone, Monroe District
- 8 VIM Gathering and Banquet, Conference Center, 4-7p.m.
- 12-13 Cabinet Meeting, Conference Center
- 13-15 National Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders, Nashville, TN
- 25 Ash Wednesday

### March

- 2 UM Foundation Bishop's Society Banquet, Shreveport
- 3 UM Foundation Bishop's Society Banquet, Conference Center
- 4 UM Foundation Bishop's Society Banquet, New Orleans
- 5 UM Foundation Bishop's Society Banquet, Baton Rouge
- 7 Shalom Zone, Monroe District
- 9-12 Cabinet Meeting
- 10-11 Town and Country 10th Annual Spring Retreat, Louisiana Conference Center
- 23-24 Gathering of Elders, Conference Center, Noon-Noon
- 26-29 Cursillo #63, Conference Center
- 30-Apr 2 Cabinet Meeting

## Local church opportunities:

**First UMC, Plaquemine** (Baton Rouge District) is seeking a dedicated **youth director** for part-time ministry. An individual is needed to work with a very active group of young people of various denominations and backgrounds Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. This is a paid position. Call the church at (504) 687-2384 or Jack Phelps at (504) 687-4005.

**Trinity UMC, Ruston**, is seeking a person to work in **adult ministries**, developing a mission to single adults, college adults, older adults and increasing participation in Sunday school classes, DISCIPLE Bible Study and School of Christian Growth.

Contact Fred Wideman at (318) 251-0750.

CONFERENCE OFFICE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER: 1.888.239.5286





# Louisiana

## CONFERENCE *edition*

Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
504.346.1646  
/504.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

018000

Send P.O. Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

Vol 15 No 3 ■ January 23, 1998

## *A Portion Meant for Others*

### 1997 apportionments paid highest since 1985

by Dr. Stone W. Caraway  
*Executive Director, Administrative Services  
and Treasurer, Louisiana Conference*

The record is in. Louisiana United Methodists have given 94.13 percent of their 1997 apportionments, the highest level since 1985. A

total of \$477,743 more than last year was given for the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Can we try to imagine how much more will be done...lives being changed, hungry being fed, children and youth being taught that they are important and can live with hope, churches

moving out into the community and beyond because they know Christ is counting on them and the list goes on?

This and so much more is evidenced when Christ and his church become the center of our devotion. This is cause to celebrate!

### 455 churches who paid 100 percent of apportionments in 1997

(Lists are continued on Conf. Sect. 2, 3 & 4)

#### ACADIANA DISTRICT

ABBEVILLE UMC  
PECAN ISLAND UMC  
ASBURY UMC/ FRANKLIN  
TRINITY UMC  
MCGOWEN UMC  
FIRST UMC/ HOUMA  
HOUMA HEIGHTS UMC  
WESLEY UMC  
INDIAN BAYOU UMC  
CENTENARY UMC  
ST. PAUL UMC/ JEANERETTE  
FITZGERALD UMC  
MT. ZION UMC  
ST. PETER UMC  
MALLALIEU UMC/ ST MARTINVILLE  
ASBURY UMC/ LAFAYETTE  
CHURCH OF THE COVENANT/LAFAYETTE  
FIRST UMC/ LAFAYETTE  
IMMANUEL UMC  
NORTHWOOD UMC  
LYDIA UMC  
MEMORIAL UMC/ MATTHEWS  
BAYOU BLUE UMC  
MELVILLE UMC  
PALMETTO UMC  
KROTZ SPRINGS UMC  
PHARR CHAPEL UMC  
WALMSLEY UMC  
MASON UMC  
WESLEY UMC/ NAPOLEONVILLE  
FIRST UMC/ NEW IBERIA  
BRIGGS UMC  
MT. ZION UMC  
FIRST UMC/NEW ROADS  
ROSEDALE UMC  
LOUISIANA MEM UMC  
ST. MARK UMC  
PATTERSON UMC  
WILSON MEMORIAL UMC  
WILEY UMC  
CALVARY UMC  
FIRST UMC/ THIBODAUX  
VACHERIE UMC  
MAGNOLIA UMC

REV. JOHN L. VINING  
REV. JOHN L. VINING  
REV. JAMES N. KIRK  
REV. JAMES N. KIRK  
REV. WILLIAM A. ROWELL, JR.  
REV. ALAN D. EINSEL  
REV. TERRY LINDSEY  
REV. LOUIS AUGUSTINE, JR.  
REV. LLOYD E. SCOTT  
REV. LLOYD E. SCOTT  
REV. FULTON A. RAYMOND, SR.  
REV. FULTON A. RAYMOND, SR.  
REV. FULTON A. RAYMOND, SR.  
REV. E. ANDREW GOFF  
REV. E. ANDREW GOFF  
REV. ROBERT L. BURGESS  
REV. W. RALPH FORD  
DR. M. JACK O'DELL  
REV. BRUCE BROWN  
REV. ROBERT L. DEICH  
REV. BOBBY CORMIER  
REV. JOSE GARCIA  
REV. JOSE GARCIA  
REV. WILLIAM JACOBS, JR.  
REV. WILLIAM JACOBS  
REV. WILLIAM R JACOBS, SR.  
REV. THOMAS BEELER  
REV. DAN WASHINGTON, JR.  
REV. DAN WASHINGTON JR  
REV. ALBERT HOLLAND  
REV. MICHAEL McLAURIN  
REV. PERCELL CHURCH SR.  
REV. PURCELL CHURCH SR.  
REV. R. DON GENTRY  
REV. R. DON GENTRY  
REV. WILLIAM YOUNGBLOOD  
REV. DAVIS W. CLARK  
REV. JOHN LOCASCIO  
REV. ROSS GENDER  
REV. LEROY BRUMFIELD  
REV. CLIFTON CONRAD  
REV. WYBRA J PRICE, II  
REV. WYBRA J. PRICE, II  
REV. JOSEPH HOLLAND

#### ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT

FIRST UMC/ ALEXANDRIA  
HORSESHOE DRIVE UMC  
FELLOWSHIP UMC  
MACARTHUR DRIVE UMC  
NEWMAN UMC  
ST. MARK'S UMC/ BOYCE  
TRINITY UMC  
WILTON UMC  
ATLANTA UMC  
COULEY UMC  
FIRST UMC/ BOYCE  
LAHEY CHAPEL UMC  
SIEPER UMC  
UNION UMC  
ST. MARK'S UMC/ ALEXANDRIA  
DAVID HAAS MEMORIAL UMC  
TRINITY UMC  
WHITE'S CHAPEL UMC  
WESLEY UMC/ BOONEVILLE  
CAMPTI UMC  
ST. MAURICE UMC  
MT. ZION UMC  
ST. PAUL UMC/ CHENEYVILLE  
EDEN UMC  
COLFAX UMC  
NOLLEY MEM UMC/ JENA  
BELAH UMC  
OAK GROVE UMC  
LECOMPTE UMC  
BAYOU CHICOT UMC  
CHENEYVILLE UMC  
MARKSVILLE UMC  
EVERGREEN UMC  
SIMMESPORT UMC  
MARTHAVILLE UMC  
BEULAH UMC  
MT. ZION UMC  
ASBURY UMC/ NATCHITOCHES  
WILLIAMS CHAPEL UMC  
ST. MARKS UMC/ NATCHITOCHES  
COLLEGE AVENUE UMC  
PROVENCAL UMC  
WEAVER UMC  
EMMANUEL UMC  
FIRST UMC/ NATCHITOCHES  
URANIA UMC  
PALESTINE UMC  
FIRST UMC/ PINEVILLE  
PLEASANT GROVE UMC  
WESLEY UMC  
POLLOCK UMC  
SANDERS CHAPEL UMC  
STRANGE UMC  
EDDY JUSTISS MEMORIAL UMC  
FIRST UMC/WINNFIELD  
SELMA UMC

DR. C. GERALD RICHARDSON  
REV. LARRY D. O'DELL  
REV. LARRY D. O'DELL  
REV. WILLIAM K. McDONALD  
REV. ERNEST E. SCOTT  
REV. WILSON J. KING  
REV. GARY D. WILLIS  
REV. DOROTHY JOHNSON  
REV. KENNETH R. DAVIS  
REV. KENNETH R. DAVIS  
REV. WILLIAM K. McDONALD  
REV. GLINDA M. DOUCET  
REV. GLINDA M. DOUCET  
REV. HURVEY SWEAZIE JR.  
REV. HURVEY SWEAZIE JR.  
REV. MARK BRAY  
REV. MARK BRAY  
REV. MARK BRAY  
REV. EMMETT COLLINS  
REV. FRANK G. YOUNT  
REV. FRANK G. YOUNT  
REV. HENRY POWELL  
REV. OBIE J. SOUTHALE  
REV. CARROLL BRADFORD  
REV. JAMES REID  
REV. JOHN R. JOHNS  
REV. JOHN R. JOHNS  
DR. CHARLES E. SCOTT  
REV. JOHN G. DESCHNER  
REV. JOHN G. DESCHNER  
REV. JOHN G. DESCHNER  
REV. LEON L. ZORDAN JR.  
REV. LEON L. ZORDAN JR.  
REV. LEON L. ZORDAN JR.  
REV. JOHN R. FOSTER  
REV. JOHN R. FOSTER  
DR. JIMMY WALKER  
REV. JAMES A. GRAHAM  
REV. JAMES A. GRAHAM  
REV. JAMES A. GRAHAM  
REV. HUGH DON DAVIS  
REV. HUGH DON DAVIS  
REV. HUGH DON DAVIS  
REV. HAZEL H. BATISTE  
REV. DOUGLAS L. CAIN  
REV. JENNIE LOU WALTERS  
REV. DONALD R. MORGAN  
REV. J. RODDY TAYLOR  
REV. KEN KLEMME  
REV. JAMES E. RAY, SR.  
REV. FREDDIE WAYNE CORY  
REV. EMILY WINBERY  
REV. EMILY WINBERY  
REV. LIONEL J. MARCEL  
REV. BARRY HOEKSTRA  
REV. LIONEL J. MARCEL





## Being and Doing



### The Children's Cross ... how are children going to learn to share if they are not taught?

When Joy and I made our first visit to the partially constructed Conference Center of the Louisiana Conference, Joy stood next to the concrete slab of the new dining area, looked across the partially filled new lake and said, "We need a large cross right over there, across the lake." So the "Children's Cross" was conceived.

After approval by the Conference Center Board, the concept of the Children's Cross was developed by the completion of working drawings, architectural review, and structure material selection. It is expected that the Children's Cross, a thirty-foot, lighted structure, will be erected in time for Confirmation Day with the Bishop on April 4.

Significant progress has been made on funding the cross. Total cost of construction and installation will be \$15,000. Beginning with last year's Confirmation Day with the Bishop, children have been contributing to the project.

Now, the Epiphany Season affords the children of all our United Methodist congregations in Louisiana the special opportunity to bring gifts to honor the birth, life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

The Epiphany Season is that time in the church year when we focus on the revealing of God's gift of Jesus to the whole world and our response to that gift. In dramatic fashion, the Children's Cross will "show forth" the earthly life and the Resurrection presence of our Lord.

Epiphany has traditionally included the image and power of light. The Children's Cross will be lighted, a continuing witness to "the light that has come into the world."

Materials have been sent to each congregation to assist with the gathering of funds for the Children's Cross. It is my hope that every congregation will share with the children the significance of the

lighted cross, tell them the story of the ministry of the Conference Center, and assist them in gathering funds for the Children's Cross.

To be sure, it would be easier to send a check, written by some adult, or written out of the church budget. No doubt, it takes some effort to get Sunday School teachers, children's workers, and parents involved in helping children collect funds for the Children's Cross. But then, consider, how are children going to learn to share if they are not taught? How will children feel at home at the new Conference Center if it is simply an "adult" thing? How do we teach children basic and fundamental concepts of stewardship if we do not take the time and invest the energy to describe, discuss, interpret, and ground giving in solid Biblical and theological understandings.

The Children's Cross affords children the opportunity to give to some need "out there." Multitudes of urgent and worthy concerns that are not "in our church" or "next door" deserve to be supported. Because they are "out there," interpreting the need and participating with others to fund the ministry assumes new and vital importance. We must work to insure that unseen needs are not unknown needs, that distant needs are not undeserving needs!

The Children's Cross could be the means by which we undertake other more extensive stewardship education initiatives with the children of our congregations. How will they learn if they are not taught? How will they be taught without parents and teachers who are willing to teach them?

*Dan E. Solomon*

Dan E. Solomon



Children's Cross

## NAME THAT PAPER

We're still looking for your input about our name, but the search will end this month. Do you think we should change it to something else instead of *The Louisiana Conference Edition of The United Methodist Review*?

Got a great idea for a name? Or, do you think we should not change the name? Let us know. Write to: Editor, LUM Review, 527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

*And he said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all the living that she had."*

Luke 21:3-4

### LAKE CHARLES DISTRICT

WAKEFIELD UMC  
GRAND CHENIER UMC  
CHURCH POINT UMC  
FIRST UMC/CROWLEY  
FIRST UMC/ DEQUINCY  
FIRST UMC/ DERIDDER  
WESLEY UMC/ DERIDDER  
MERRYVILLE UMC  
BRANCH UMC  
FAIRVIEW UMC  
SWEETLAKE UMC  
PROSPECT UMC  
HORNBECK UMC  
GUEYDAN UMC  
KAPLAN UMC  
HAYES UMC  
HOPEWELL UMC  
PINE GROVE UMC  
IOWA UMC  
FIRST UMC/ JENNINGS  
KINDER UMC  
FIRST UMC/ LK CHAS  
OAK PARK UMC  
ST. LUKE-SIMPSON UMC  
UNIVERSITY UMC/ LK CHAS  
WARREN UMC  
FIRST UMC/ LEESVILLE  
HOLLY GROVE UMC  
KOREAN UMC  
MT. ZION UMC/ LEESVILLE  
MACEDONIA UMC  
HASKIN CHAPEL UMC  
MOSS BLUFF UMC  
OAKDALE UMC  
OBERLIN UMC  
BASILE UMC  
SQUYRES UMC  
RAYMOND UMC  
ELTON UMC  
ROANOKE UMC  
HENNING MEM UMC  
MAPLEWOOD UMC  
WESLEY UMC/ SULPHUR  
HACKBERRY UMC  
WELSH MEM UMC  
WELSH UMC  
JONES UMC  
WESTLAKE UMC

REV. JOSEPH L. ROUNTREE  
REV. JOSEPH L. ROUNTREE  
REV. FRED M. FRASER  
REV. CHARLES L. FLOYD, JR.  
REV. JOHN F. DURHAM  
REV. JON E. TELLIFERO  
REV. CHARLOTTE T. BRENT  
REV. CHARLOTTE T. BRENT  
REV. CAGE M. MCLEMORE  
REV. JAMES C. SKINNER  
REV. WAYNE G. TAYLOR  
DR. WILLIAM R. BOYD  
DR. WILLIAM R. BOYD  
REV. JAMES R. SCHAUB  
REV. JAMES R. SCHAUB  
REV. VIRGINIA CUTRER  
REV. MARK THERIOT  
REV. MARK THERIOT  
REV. DAVID R. DEWITT  
REV. J. PENN MORGAN  
REV. ALETA C. VALDEZ  
REV. STEVEN M. SPURLOCK  
REV. TOMMY R. BERGERON, SR.  
REV. JAMES HUMPHREYS  
REV. STEVEN W. CARAWAY  
REV. KENNETH M. FISHER  
REV. J. RYAN HORTON, JR.  
REV. J. RYAN HORTON, JR.  
REV. LEE ECKERLE  
REV. ROBERT M. ECKERLE, JR.  
REV. ROBERT M. ECKERLE JR.  
REV. ROBERT M. ECKERLE, JR.  
REV. DANIEL P. GLEASON  
REV. JOSEPH E. HAMILTON  
REV. JEROLD HOFFPAUIR  
REV. JEROLD HOFFPAUIR  
REV. CHARLES W. CREWS  
REV. CURTISS D. EDEN  
REV. CURTISS D. EDEN  
REV. ROBERT L. EMANUEL  
REV. C. RICHARD HOFFPAUIR  
REV. KAREN F. DAVIS  
REV. LEON BOGGS  
REV. LEON BOGGS  
REV. JERRY LEE JOHNSON  
REV. G. LARRY MAXWELL, SR.  
REV. MARVETTE THOMAS  
REV. STEVEN J. PORTER

### BATON ROUGE DISTRICT

BLACKWATER UMC  
BROADMOOR UMC  
CAMPHOR MEMORIAL UMC  
FIRST UMC/ BATON ROUGE  
LEJEUNE UMC  
JEFFERSON UMC  
JORDAN UMC  
ST. PETER UMC/  
MARINGOUIN  
NEELY UMC  
ST. ANDREW'S UMC  
ST. JOHN'S UMC  
ST. MARK UMC/ BATON ROUGE  
DEERFORD UMC  
UNIVERSITY UMC  
WESLEY UMC/  
BATON ROUGE

REV. DOUG DEGRAFFENRIED  
DR. CHARLES B. SIMMONS  
REV. ROGER D. LATHAN  
DR. CHRISTOPHER H. ANDREWS  
REV. ROBERT ROSS  
REV. CAROL S. WINN  
REV. CLARENCE L. MILLARD  
REV. CLARENCE L. MILLARD  
REV. ARNOLD V. BROWN  
REV. STEVE STEPHENS  
REV. RICHARD H. HUMPHRIES  
REV. JAMES F. HAYNES  
REV. JOHN C. COKER, SR.  
REV. KEN W. IRBY  
REV. FREDDIE C. HENDERSON

CLINTON UMC  
CLEAR CREEK UMC  
MT. ZION UMC  
ST. PAUL UMC  
ST. PETER UMC  
ST. JAMES UMC/ CONVENT  
CARPENTER'S CHAPEL UMC  
GONZALES UMC  
MAGNOLIA UMC  
JACKSON UMC  
ETHEL UMC  
LUTCHER UMC  
LUTCHER CHAPEL UMC  
ST. LANDRY UMC  
FIRST UMC/ PLAQUEMINE  
GRAND RIVER UMC  
HURST CHAPEL UMC

REV. J. THOMAS LOGAN  
REV. J. THOMAS LOGAN  
REV. H. LOUIS JONES  
REV. H. LOUIS JONES  
REV. LAURENCE E. HALL  
REV. GAYNELL PITTMAN  
REV. CHRIS BLANCHARD  
REV. SAMUEL D. REEVES  
REV. ELLEN B. MONTEGUDO  
REV. JAMES W. JONES  
REV. JAMES W. JONES  
REV. ALICE W. STORY  
REV. GREGORY MCCLAY, SR.  
REV. GREGORY MCCLAY SR.  
REV. JACK D. PHELPS  
REV. JACK D. PHELPS  
REV. THOMAS A. WESLEY

SCOTT CHAPEL UMC/ PORT ALLEN  
SHILOH UMC  
MEADOWS CHAPEL UMC  
BETHEL UMC  
ANDREW CHAPEL UMC  
FAITHFUL UMC  
ST. FRANCISVILLE UMC  
BLUFF CREEK UMC  
TUNICA UMC  
WESLEY UMC/ WILSON  
ASBURY UMC/ NORWOOD  
MT. CARMEL UMC  
ZACHARY UMC  
MOSES CHAPEL UMC  
BEECH GROVE UMC

REV. ULYSSE STEPHENS  
REV. ULYSSE STEPHENS  
REV. ANGUS L. CARRUTH  
REV. BRADY B. FORMAN  
DR. GEORGE W. C. CALVIN SR.  
REV. OWEN H. PEYTON, SR.  
REV. HAROLD BABIN  
REV. DARWIN BRECHEEN  
REV. MICHAEL CLARK  
REV. WILLIE LAWS  
REV. WILLIE LAWS  
REV. WILLIE LAWS  
REV. DEWITT M. GINN  
REV. LARRY L. FREEMAN SR.  
REV. LARRY L. FREEMAN SR.



**NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT**

BELLE CHASSE UMC  
TRINITY UMC/BURAS  
ARABI UMC  
ST. CHARLES UMC  
GRAND ISLE UMC  
BOYNTON UMC  
GRETNA UMC  
FIRST UMC/KENNER  
MESSIAH UMC  
EL MESIAS UMC  
THOMAS UMC  
FIRST UMC/ LAPLACE  
METAIRIE UMC  
MUNHOLLAND UMC  
ST. MATTHEWS UMC  
ASBURY UMC/NEW ORLEANS  
ST. MATTHEW UMC  
BETHANY UMC/ NEW ORLEANS  
SHAW TEMPLE UMC  
CARROLLTON UMC  
NAPOLEON AVENUE UMC  
CORNERSTONE UMC  
FELICITY UMC  
FIRST STREET UMC  
GRACE UMC  
JEFFERSON UMC  
MT. ZION UMC/  
NEW ORLEANS  
PHILLIPS MEM UMC  
RAYNE MEMORIAL UMC  
WILLIAMS UMC  
ST. LUKE'S UMC  
ST. MARKS UMC  
ST. PAUL UMC/HARAHAN  
TRINITY OF GENTILLY UMC

REV. W. ARNOLD ROBERTS  
REV. GENE M. FAURIE  
REV. RICHARD O. TEETER  
REV. MARK R. MARTIN  
REV. RAY H. LEIDIG JR.  
REV. ISAAC H. BIVENS  
REV. LEWIS L. OLMSTED  
REV. DARRYL A. TATE  
REV. JUDITH A. SHEMA  
REV. JUDITH A. SHEMA  
REV. LESLIE M. TAYLOR, SR.  
REV. KENNETH M. GRAHAM, JR.  
REV. ELLEN J. BLUE  
REV. T. NICHOLS EVANS  
REV. H. A. HARRINGTON, JR.  
DR. ANDREW J. DOUGLAS  
DR. ANDREW J. DOUGLAS  
REV. HADLEY R. EDWARDS  
REV. DALE E. BRANCH  
REV. JEFFREY D. CONNOR  
REV. JEFFREY D. CONNER  
REV. JOE D. CONNELLY  
REV. MARVA L. MITCHELL  
REV. ABRAHAM E. DAVIS  
REV. ROBERT F. HARRINGTON  
REV. REBECCA D. CONNER  
REV. RANDALL E. CAMPBELL  
REV. HELENA WRIGHT-BUTLER  
DR. GEORGE A. DUERSON  
REV. BURNELL BELL  
REV. WESLEY C. REAGAN  
REV. GREGOR DIKE  
REV. JAMES E. WILSON  
REV. JAMES W. BARRETT JR.

BASKIN UMC  
FIRST UMC/ BASTROP  
COLLINSTON UMC  
MER ROUGE UMC  
MT. OLIVE UMC  
BOEF PRAIRIE UMC  
DELHI UMC  
CROWVILLE UMC  
EPPS UMC  
LOYD UMC  
PIONEER UMC  
SEVIER MEM UMC/FERRIDAY  
GRAYSON UMC  
HOLLY RIDGE UMC  
FIRST UMC/ LAKE PROVIDENCE  
FIRST UMC/ MONROE  
LEA JOYNER MEMORIAL UMC  
MEMORIAL UMC  
REVEILLE UMC  
ST. MARK'S UMC

**MONROE DISTRICT**

REV. CECIL MIMS  
REV. EDDIE MORGAN, JR.  
REV. EDDIE MORGAN, JR.  
REVS. MICHAEL/RETHA CORRIGAN  
MR. JOHNNY RILEY  
REV. W. L. STRONG  
REV. BONITA C. DAVIS  
REV. BONITA C. DAVIS  
REV. MARGARET BROWN  
REV. MARGARET BROWN  
REV. LYNDLE R. BULLARD  
REV. CHARLES B. ROPER  
DR. LINDA & REV. PAUL SABIN  
REV. WALTER PARKER JR.  
REV. LARRY R. STAFFORD  
REV. DAVID F. FORTUNA  
REV. ROBERT E. HOLLIS  
REV. E. EUGENE KIMBLE  
REV. W. MARK STRICKLAND

ST. PAULS UMC/MONROE  
NEWELLTON  
RAYVILLE UMC  
MANGHAM UMC  
ST. ANDREWS UMC  
BARTHOLOMEW UMC  
ST. JOSEPH UMC  
FIRST UMC/WATERPROOF  
WESLEY UMC  
FIRST UMC/SICILY ISLAND  
FIRST UMC/HARRISONBURG  
FIRST UMC/TALLULAH REV.  
WASHINGTON CHAPEL UMC  
ASBURY UMC/W MONROE  
FIRST UMC/W MONROE  
MCGUIRE UMC  
WOODLAWN UMC  
FIRST UMC/WINNSBORO  
GILBERT UMC

DR. H. WARREN BLAKEMAN  
REV. WALTER L. PARR, JR.  
REV. FRANK M. JONES  
REV. FRANK M. JONES  
REV. BRADLEY LAYCOCK  
REV. BRADLEY LAYCOCK  
REV. KIBBIE HATFIELD  
REV. KIBBIE HATFIELD  
REV. KIBBIE HATFIELD  
REV. JON LORD  
REV. JON LORD  
LILLARD R. BEVILL  
REV. JOE BROWN JR.  
REV. JOHN G. HANKINS  
REV. RAY SPILLER  
REV. MICHAEL T. HEAD  
REV. HOWARD L. HUDSON JR.  
REV. CHARLES R. LANGFORD  
REV. CHARLES R. LANGFORD

**RUSTON DISTRICT**

ANSLEY UMC  
ANTIOCH UMC/ SIMSBORO  
LISBON UMC  
ARCADIA UMC  
MT. MARIAH UMC  
ARIZONA UMC  
ATHENS UMC  
BERNICE UMC  
BEECH GROVE UMC  
SUMMERFIELD UMC  
BEULAH UMC  
BIENVILLE UMC  
CENTERPOINT UMC  
CHATHAM UMC  
CONCORD UMC  
CHOUDRANT UMC  
DOUGLAS UMC  
COTTON VALLEY UMC  
DOWNSVILLE UMC  
BETHEL UMC  
MT. NEBO UMC  
DOYLINE UMC  
DUBACH UMC  
HARMONY CHAPEL UMC  
EROS UMC  
ANTIOCH UMC/ EROS  
FARMERVILLE UMC  
GIBSLAND UMC  
OAK GROVE UMC  
HAYNESVILLE UMC  
SHONGALOO UMC  
HEFLIN UMC  
BRUSHWOOD UMC  
HODGE UMC  
DODSON UMC  
NEW HOPE UMC  
FIRST UMC/ HOMER  
WESLEY CHAPEL UMC  
INDIAN VILLAGE UMC  
JONESBORO UMC  
MARION UMC  
BIRDS CHAPEL UMC  
MEMORIAL UMC  
SALEM UMC  
FIRST UMC/MINDEN  
LAKEVIEW UMC  
MT. ZION UMC  
PILGRIM REST UMC  
PINE GROVE UMC  
BETHLEHEM UMC  
PLEASANT VALLEY UMC  
QUITMAN UMC  
CLAY UMC  
RINGGOLD UMC  
CASTOR UMC  
FAITH UMC/ RUSTON  
WESLEY CHAPEL UMC  
GRACE UMC/ RUSTON  
TRINITY UMC/ RUSTON  
SIBLEY UMC  
SPRINGHILL UMC  
SAREPTA UMC  
WHITEHALL UMC  
COLQUITT UMC  
EVERGREEN UMC

REV. MERLIN M. MERRILL  
REV. HOMER V. BAILES  
REV. HOMER V. BAILES  
REV. R. DON ROSS  
REV. R. DON ROSS  
REV. WILLIAM J. MAXEY  
REV. CHARLES PENUELL  
REV. BILLY MINYARD  
REV. BILLY MINYARD  
REV. BILLY MINYARD  
REV. TROY B. GARRETT  
REV. WILLIAM R. HIGGS  
REV. RICK COLE  
REV. LINDA SHEPHERD  
REV. LINDA SHEPHERD  
REV. RAYMOND M. CROFOOT  
REV. RAYMOND M. CROFOOT  
REV. LYNN HAUMAN  
REV. DOUGLAS MILLIRON  
REV. DOUGLAS MILLIRON  
REV. DOUGLAS MILLIRON  
REV. JIM KENNEDY  
REV. HENRY M. HAMILTON  
REV. HENRY M. HAMILTON  
DR. GUY RUSSELL VALENTINE  
REV. G. RUSSELL VALENTINE  
REV. ROBERT ROWLAND  
REV. JOHNNIE ADKINS  
REV. JOHNNIE ADKINS  
REV. GEORGE B. CUNNINGHAM  
REV. GEORGE B. CUNNINGHAM  
REV. LEO BECK  
REV. LEO BECK  
REV. BRIAN YEICH  
REV. BRIAN YEICH  
REV. BRIAN YEICH  
REV. DAVID B. DIETZEL  
REV. DAVID B. DIETZEL  
REV. C. C. MILSTEAD  
REV. ROY BRYAN MOORE  
REV. ED PARKS  
REV. ED PARKS  
REV. JAMES B. MOORE  
REV. JAMES B. MOORE  
REV. THOMAS L. HOWE, JR.  
REV. WAYNE HOWINGTON  
REV. JOHN WILLIAMS  
REV. SAMUEL BRADLEY  
REV. JOSEPH H. WINDHAM  
REV. JOSEPH H. WINDHAM  
REV. JOE E. HUNTER  
REV. DAVID CARLTON  
REV. DAVID CARLTON  
REV. JOE A. HOOVER  
REV. JOE A. HOOVER  
REV. ALTON PEEL, SR.  
REV. ALTON PEEL, SR.  
DR. W. DWIGHT RAMSEY  
REV. FRED B. WIDEMAN  
REV. ALTON HORTMAN  
REV. WELDON BARES  
REV. WELDON BARES  
REV. DAVID G. BAZER  
REV. DAVID G. BAZER  
REV. DAVID G. BAZER

**SHREVEPORT DISTRICT**

BENTON UMC  
COUSHATTA UMC  
WESLEY CHAPEL UMC  
CROSSROADS UMC  
HALL SUMMIT UMC  
GREENWOOD UMC  
BETHANY UMC  
HOSSTON UMC  
GILLIAM UMC  
IDA UMC  
LOGANSPOUT UMC  
BETHEL UMC  
LONGSTREET UMC  
EATCHIE UMC  
FIRST UMC/ MANSFIELD  
GRAND CANE UMC  
WESLEY UMC/ MANSFIELD  
ROSA UMC  
ST. MATTHEW UMC  
MANY UMC  
BAYOU SCIE UMC  
MOORINGSPOUT UMC  
OIL CITY UMC  
BELCHER UMC  
PLAIN DEALING UMC  
WALKERS CHAPEL UMC  
PLEASANT HILL UMC  
PELICAN UMC  
PLEASANT VALLEY UMC  
MT. ZION UMC  
FAIRVIEW UMC  
NEW LIGHT UMC  
SHADY GROVE UMC  
BONCHEST UMC  
VIVIAN UMC  
ZWOLLE UMC  
NOBLE UMC  
ASBURY UMC  
BARKSDALE UMC  
BLANCHARD UMC  
FIRST UMC/ BOSSIER CITY  
CHRIST UMC  
ELLERBE ROAD UMC  
FAIRFIELD UMC  
FAITH UMC  
FELLOWSHIP UMC  
GRACE COMMUNITY  
CHURCH  
KEITHVILLE UMC  
LAKEVIEW UMC  
LOVE CHAPEL UMC  
MANGUM UMC  
MORNINGSIDE UMC  
MT. ZION UMC  
ST. JAMES UMC  
ROUND GROVE UMC  
ST. LUKES UMC  
CADDO HEIGHTS UMC  
ST. PAUL UMC/  
SHREVEPORT  
FIRST UMC/ SHREVEPORT  
SUMMER GROVE UMC  
TRINITY UMC/ SHREVEPORT  
HAUGHTON UMC  
REV. WILLIAM A. MOON, III  
REV. RICHARD M. BOYETT  
REV. RICHARD M. BOYETT  
REV. LORETTA LAMPKIN  
REV. LORETTA LAMPKIN  
REV. STEVEN R. KELLY  
REV. STEVEN R. KELLY  
REV. BYRON W. PUTNAM  
REV. BYRON W. PUTNAM  
REV. ROBERT E. CARTER  
REV. CAROLYN B. VOLENTINE  
REV. CAROLYN B. VOLENTINE  
REV. THOMAS A. WILSON  
REV. THOMAS A. WILSON  
REV. LELAND D. WADE  
REV. LELAND D. WADE  
REV. S. CHARLES BYRD  
REV. S. CHARLES BYRD  
REV. S. CHARLES BYRD  
REV. HULEN C. WARREN, JR.  
REV. HULEN C. WARREN, JR.  
REV. JARRELL R. MORGAN  
REV. JARRELL R. MORGAN  
REV. JARRELL R. MORGAN  
REV. E. BENJAMIN FANT  
REV. E. BENJAMIN FANT  
REV. CARL D. MUNYON  
REV. CARL D. MUNYON  
REV. OSCAR E. PLAYER  
REV. OSCAR E. PLAYER  
REV. OSCAR E. PLAYER  
REV. OSCAR E. PLAYER  
REV. WILLIE L. HENRY  
REV. WILLIE L. HENRY  
REV. ROBERT E. TOWNSEND  
REV. TED D. FREELAND  
REV. TED D. FREELAND  
REV. JERRY G. HILBUN  
REV. PAUL C. CARROLL, SR.  
REV. STUART M. SHERMAN  
REV. TROY E. BOYD, JR.  
REV. CHARLES B. HUMPHREYS  
REV. JAMES A. VAN HOOK JR.  
REV. WILLIE E. JACKSON JR.  
REV. WILLIE E. JACKSON JR.  
REV. GREGORY R. DAVIS  
REV. ROBERT A. WEBER  
REV. CLIFFORD N. MCCALL  
REV. WAYNE EVANS  
REV. DALE HENSARLING  
DR. WILLIAM C. BLAKELY  
REV. RHONDA E. FUERTADO  
REV. CLYDE T. SMITH  
REV. NATHAN DANIELS JR.  
REV. NATHAN DANIELS JR.  
REVS. JAMES/SANDI HUBER  
REV. JAMES HUBER  
REV. GEORGE L. THOMAS  
DR. R. PAT DAY  
REV. BRYAN S. DAUPHIN  
REV. JUDY BAZER  
REV. JUDY BAZER

**NORTH SHORE DISTRICT**

AMITE UMC  
INDEPENDENCE UMC  
WESLEY, RAY UMC  
LIVE OAK UMC  
MARYS CHAPEL UMC  
ELIZABETH SULLIVAN MEM UMC  
THIRKIELD UMC  
HARRYS CHAPEL UMC  
BUSH UMC  
FIRST UMC/COVINGTON  
FITZGERALD UMC  
WALDHEIM UMC  
DAYS UMC  
CENTER UMC  
DARLINGTON UMC  
FIRST UMC/DENHAM SPRINGS  
ROBERTS UMC  
ST. LUKE UMC  
CENTENARY UMC  
FISHER UMC  
WINAN UMC  
HAYES CHAPEL UMC  
GREENSBURG UMC  
WESLEY CHAPEL UMC  
FIRST UMC/ HAMMOND  
JAMES CHAPEL UMC  
KENTWOOD UMC  
MT. HERMON UMC  
LACOMBE UMC  
LIVINGSTON UMC  
LORANGER UMC  
COOPERS CHAPEL UMC  
CHURCH OF THE SERVANT  
NEWELL UMC  
ST. TIMOTHY ON N/SORE UMC  
MAUREPAS UMC  
PEARL RIVER UMC  
PINE GROVE UMC  
MONTPELIER UMC  
NESOM MEMORIAL TICKFAW UMC  
FIRST UMC/ PONCHATOU LA  
LEES LANDING UMC  
WESLEY CHAPEL UMC  
ALDERSGATE UMC  
FIRST UMC/ SLIDELL  
HARTZELL, MT. ZION UMC  
FIRST UMC/ SPRINGFIELD  
HUFF CHAPEL UMC  
ST. JAMES UMC  
NINDE CHAPEL UMC  
TALISHEEK UMC  
SUN UMC  
TANGIPAHOA UMC  
PINE RIDGE UMC  
VARNADO UMC  
WALKER UMC  
MANGUM CHAPEL UMC  
FRIENDSHIP UMC  
CORBIN UMC  
LIVE OAK UMC

REV. KENNETH R. BOWMAN  
REV. KENNETH R. BOWMAN  
REV. OSCAR TIPPIN, JR.  
REV. OSCAR TIPPIN, JR.  
REV. OSCAR TIPPIN, JR.  
REV. J. VERNON FAIRLEY  
REV. LOUIS A. SMITH  
REV. LOUIS A. SMITH  
REV. KARL D. WOOD  
REV. M. EUGENE FINNELL  
REV. PERCY M. FRAZIER  
REV. PERCY M. FRAZIER  
DR. LARRY D. ROBERTSON  
DR. LARRY D. ROBERTSON  
DR. LARRY D. ROBERTSON  
REV. LARRY G. MILLER  
REV. WILBUR G. C. DAVIS SR.  
REV. WILBUR G. C. DAVIS SR.  
REV. W. SPILLER MILTON  
REV. W. SPILLER MILTON  
REV. TERRENCE S. AUGUST  
REV. TERRENCE S. AUGUST  
REV. CHARLES COSENTINO  
REV. CHARLES COSENTINO  
REV. WILLIAM I. EUBANKS  
REV. CAROL RICHARDSON  
REV. FRED B. MOORE JR.  
REV. FRED B. MOORE JR.  
REV. STEPHEN A. SANDERS  
REV. PAUL CORSE  
REV. EMILE E. TOSSO, III  
REV. EMILE E. TOSSO, III  
REV. BARRY HUGHES  
REV. NOLAN ROBINSON  
REV. JAMES MITCHELL  
REV. DEBRA M. PEPLOW  
REV. RICHARD C. HOOTON  
REV. WANDA COSENTINO  
REV. WANDA COSENTINO  
REV. WANDA COSENTINO  
DR. BURTON F. BLAIR  
REV. WILLIAM M. JACOBS  
REV. WILLIAM M. JACOBS  
DR. DONALD COTTRILL  
REV. JOE W. MCCLAIN  
REV. DARLENE MOORE-JAMES  
REV. E. RAND GUY  
REV. E. RAND GUY  
REV. MALCOM D. MOSES  
REV. MALCOM D. MOSES  
REV. ROBERT H. CHANCE, JR.  
REV. ROBERT H. CHANCE JR.  
REV. LOUIS COPPAGE  
REV. LOUIS COPPAGE  
REV. ESTER L. HAMMOND  
REV. THOMAS DOLPH  
REV. THOMAS E. DOLPH  
REV. LEWIS MORRIS JR.  
REV. LEWIS MORRIS JR.  
REV. MARK E. CROSBY

# Thank You!!



# AROUND THE CONFERENCE NEWS

"The People's Everlasting Light," a children's Christmas program featuring carols and a live nativity scene, was performed by the children of Blanchard United Methodist Church, Shreveport Dec. 21.



Approximately 15 children were involved in the program, some of which were members of the church's two children's choirs, the King's Kids and the Rainbow Pals.

The nativity scene included Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, three wise men, two shepherds, four angels and four animals (pictured above), all in costume.

## IN MEMORIAM

Our prayers and condolences go to: Rev. Davis Clark, pastor, St. Mark UMC, Opelousas, on the death of his father, Mr. Henry Clark, Sr., Jan. 9. His funeral was held Jan. 15 at Mt. Sinai UMC in Sterling, La.

Rev. Bobby Lawton (retired, Acadiana District) on the death of his father, Rev. A.C. Lawton, Jan. 11. The funeral was held Jan. 14 at Asbury UMC, Bossier City.

Rev. Barry Hoekstra, pastor, Winnfield First UMC, and his wife Lisa on the death of her father, Mr. A.M. Guy, Jan. 2. The funeral was held Jan. 4 in Columbia, La.

Rev. Dan Washington, Jr., pastor Walmsley-Mason (Acadiana District) on the death of his mother, Mrs. Isabella Washington, on Jan. 5. Her funeral was held Jan. 9 in Elba, La.

# SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The following churches have paid 100 percent or more on all apportionments plus payments on General Advance Specials, Conference Advance Specials and General Church Offerings:

## ACADIANA

FIRST UMC/HOUMA REV. ALAN D. EINSEL  
FIRST UMC/LAFAYETTE DR. M. JACK O'DELL  
LOUISIANA REV. WILLIAM  
MEM UMC YOUNGBLOOD

## ALEXANDRIA

HORSESHOE DRIVE UMC REV. LARRY D. O'DELL  
FIRST UMC/BOYCE REV. WILLIAM K. MCDONALD  
FIRST UMC/PINEVILLE REV. J. RODDY TAYLOR  
WILTON UMC REV. DOROTHY JOHNSON  
ASBURY UMC/ NATCHITOCHES REV. JAMES A. GRAHAM

## BATON ROUGE

BROADMOOR UMC DR. CHARLES B. SIMMONS  
JEFFERSON UMC REV. CAROL S. WINN  
BETHEL UMC REV. BRADY B. FORMAN  
BLUFF CREEK UMC REV. DARWIN BRECHEN  
CLEAR CREEK UMC REV. J. THOMAS LOGAN  
MEADOWS CHAPEL UMC REV. ANGUS L. CARRUTH  
GONZALES UMC REV. SAMUEL D. REEVES  
GRAND RIVER UMC REV. JACK D. PHELPS  
FIRST UMC/PLAQUEMINE REV. JACK D. PHELPS  
ST. FRANCISVILLE UMC REV. HAROLD BABIN

LUTCHER UMC REV. ALICE W. STORY  
BEECH GROVE UMC REV. LARRY L. FREEMAN, SR.  
CAMPBOR MEMORIAL UMC REV. ROGER D. LATHAN

MOSES CHAPEL UMC REV. LARRY L. FREEMAN, SR.  
LUTCHER CHAPEL UMC REV. GREGORY MCCLAY, SR.

## LAKE CHARLES

ROANOKE UMC REV. ROBERT L. EMANUEL  
CHURCH POINT UMC REV. FRED M. FRASER  
FIRST UMC/ CROWLEY REV. CHARLES L. FLOYD, JR.  
HOLLY GROVE UMC REV. J. RYAN HORTON, JR.  
FIRST UMC/ LAKE CHARLES REV. STEVEN M. SPURLOCK  
ST. LUKE-SIMPSON UMC REV. JAMES HUMPHREYS  
UNIVERSITY UMC/ LAKE CHARLES REV. STEVEN W. CARAWAY  
HENNING REV. C. RICHARD HOFFPAUIR  
MEMORIAL UMC

## WELSH UMC

REV. G. LARRY MAXWELL, SR.  
WESLEY UMC/SULPHUR REV. LEON BOGGS

## MONROE

FIRST UMC/ MONROE REV. LARRY R. STAFFORD  
ST. JOSEPH UMC REV. KIBBIE HATFIELD  
FIRST UMC/ WATERPROOF REV. KIBBIE HATFIELD  
NEWELLTON UMC REV. WALTER L. PARR, JR.

## NEW ORLEANS

CORNERSTONE UMC REV. JOE D. CONNELLY  
FELICITY UMC REV. MARVA L. MITCHELL  
GRETNAL UMC REV. LEWIS L. OLMSTED  
ST. LUKE'S UMC REV. WESLEY C. REAGAN  
SHAW TEMPLE UMC REV. DALE E. BRANCH

## NORTH SHORE

ELIZABETH SULLIVAN MEMORIAL UMC REV. J. VERNON FAIRLEY  
FIRST UMC/ DENHAM SPRINGS REV. LARRY G. MILLER  
FIRST UMC/ HAMMOND REV. WILLIAM I. EUBANKS  
TANGIPAHOA UMC REV. LOUIS COPPAGE  
WESLEY CHAPEL UMC REV. WILLIAM M. JACOBS  
PINE RIDGE UMC REV. LOUIS COPPAGE  
LEE'S LANDING UMC REV. WILLIAM M. JACOBS  
BUSH UMC REV. KARL D. WOOD  
ALDERSGATE UMC DR. DONALD COTTRILL  
HARTZELL REV. DARLENE MOORE-JAMES  
MT. ZION UMC

## RUSTON

FARMERVILLE UMC REV. ROBERT ROWLAND  
TRINITY UMC/ RUSTON REV. FRED B. WIDEMAN

## SHREVEPORT

BARKSDALE UMC REV. PAUL C. CARROLL, SR.  
BELCHER UMC REV. JARRELL R. MORGAN  
BENTON UMC REV. WILLIAM A. MOON, III  
BETHEL UMC REV. CAROLYN B. VOLENTINE  
BLANCHARD UMC REV. STUART M. SHERMAN  
FIRST UMC/ BOSSIER CITY REV. TROY E. BOYD, JR.  
CROSSROADS UMC REV. LORETTA LAMPKIN  
COUSHATTA UMC REV. RICHARD M. BOYETT

## WESLEY CHAPEL UMC

REV. RICHARD M. BOYETT  
GRAND CANE UMC REV. LELAND D. WADE  
GREENWOOD UMC REV. STEVEN R. KELLY  
HAUGHTON UMC REV. JUDY BAZER  
LOVE CHAPEL UMC REV. DALE HENSARLING

HOSSTON UMC REV. BYRON W. PUTNAM  
IDA UMC REV. ROBERT E. CARTER  
KEATCHIE UMC REV. THOMAS A. WILSON  
KEITHVILLE UMC REV. CLIFFORD N. MCCALL

LOGANSPOUT UMC REV. CAROLYN B. VOLENTINE  
FIRST UMC/ MANSFIELD REV. LELAND D. WADE

MOORINGSPOUT UMC REV. JARRELL R. MORGAN

PELICAN UMC REV. CARL D. MUNYON  
PLAIN DEALING UMC REV. E. BENJAMIN FANT

WALKERS CHAPEL UMC REV. E. BENJAMIN FANT

PLEASANT HILL UMC REV. CARL D. MUNYON

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH REV. ROBERT A. WEBER  
CADDO HEIGHTS UMC REV. JAMES HUBER  
CHRIST UMC REV. CHARLES B. HUMPHREYS

LONGSTREET UMC REV. THOMAS A. WILSON

FIRST UMC/SHREVEPORT DR. R. PAT DAY  
MANGUM UMC DR. WILLIAM C. BLAKELY

MORNINGSIDE UMC REV. RHONDA E. FUERTADO

LAKEVIEW UMC REV. WAYNE EVANS  
ST. LUKE'S UMC REV. JAMES/ SANDI HUBER

SUMMER GROVE UMC REV. BRYAN S. DAUPHIN  
TRINITY UMC/ SHREVEPORT REV. JUDY BAZER

ZWOLLE UMC REV. TED D. FREELAND  
NOBLE UMC REV. TED D. FREELAND

VIVIAN UMC REV. ROBERT E. TOWNSEND  
FELLOWSHIP UMC REV. GREGORY R. DAVIS  
ROSA UMC REV. S. CHARLES BYRD  
WESLEY UMC/ MANSFIELD REV. S. CHARLES BYRD

ST. JAMES UMC REV. NATHAN DANIELS JR.  
ST. PAUL UMC/ SHREVEPORT REV. GEORGE L. THOMAS

ROUND GROVE UMC REV. NATHAN DANIELS JR.

FAIRVIEW UMC REV. OSCAR E. PLAYER  
MT. ZION UMC REV. CLYDE T. SMITH  
NEW LIGHT UMC REV. OSCAR E. PLAYER

Louisiana Conference Edition of the United Methodist Review  
Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

EDITORIAL TEAM:  
Leslie N. Akin, Director,  
Gospel Communications  
Bobbie Armstrong, Editor  
Dr. Alonzo J. Campbell, Liz Lucas

Subscriptions \$12.50 per year  
Send subscriptions, news and information to:  
Editor

527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
1(888) 239-5286  
(504)346-1646, (504)383-2652 fax  
e-mail: laumc@premier.net

## On the Web

The Louisiana Annual Conference has a newly revised homepage. You can find us at  
<http://www.gbmg-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>.

## DEADLINE FOR:

February 6 Issue-January 26  
February 20 Issue-February 9

## Let's connect . . .

Send us your news (typed copy please) and photos (color okay) to:  
Bobbie Armstrong, Editor  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

## Conference Program Calendar

### January 1998

25 UM Women's Sunday  
29-Feb. 1 Cursillo #62, Conference Center

### February

6-8 Conference Senior High Retreat,  
Conference Center  
7 Shalom Zone, Monroe District  
8 VIM Gathering and Banquet,  
Conference Center, 4-7p.m.  
12-13 Cabinet Meeting, Conference Center

## LOUISIANA CONFERENCE 1997 STEWARDSHIP REPORT

| District             | Church Apportionment | Paid All Funds | %Paid Apportionments |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Ruston               | 542,476.00           | 605,703.33     | 100.02               |
| North Shore          | 594,066.00           | 686,094.82     | 100.00               |
| Lake Charles         | 653,914.00           | 715,948.81     | 97.21                |
| Alexandria           | 492,366.00           | 548,599.65     | 96.64                |
| Acadiana             | 531,405.00           | 561,337.16     | 95.34                |
| Shreveport           | 1,186,030.00         | 1,233,385.98   | 94.68                |
| Baton Rouge          | 1,012,772.00         | 1,096,907.58   | 92.72                |
| Monroe               | 645,381.00           | 712,185.37     | 92.44                |
| New Orleans          | 868,322.00           | 825,037.66     | 84.14                |
| Louisiana Conference | 6,526,732.00         | 6,985,200.36   | 94.13                |

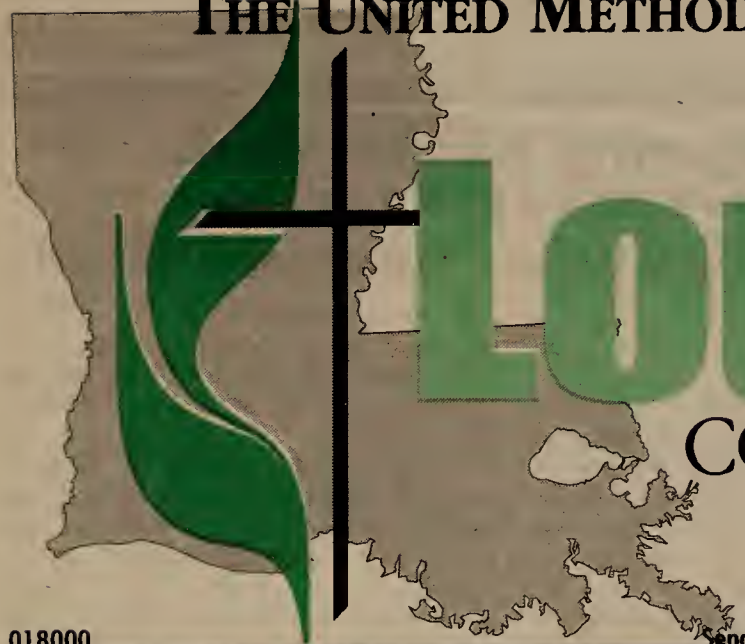
*Don't forget!*

**Volunteers in Mission Banquet**

Sunday, February 8, 1998 ♦ Conference Center ♦ 4 to 7 p.m.  
Guest Speaker: Bishop Dan E. Solomon ♦ Reservations required  
Call 1.888.239-5286 (Janice Johnson), Ext. 226, for reservations.  
E-mail: laumc@premier.net

**CONFERENCE OFFICE TOLL-FREE NUMBER: 1.888.239.5286**





# Louisiana

## CONFERENCE *edition*

Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
504.346.1646  
/504.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

018000

Send P.O. Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

Vol 15 No 4 ■ February 6, 1998

# The Mission is in Motion!

## Ministry to supply UMCOR Depot kicks off at Blackwater UMC

by Bobbie Armstrong  
Editor, LUM Review

"The Mission is in Motion," says Dave Freneaux, conference coordinator of Mission in Motion, a pioneering ministry designed to keep the UMCOR Depot at the Sager-Brown facility stocked with relief supplies ready for shipment anywhere in the world there is a need.



Loading UMCOR relief supplies on to the Mission in Motion trailer at Blackwater UMC are (left to right): Rev. Doug deGraffenried, Dave Freneaux and Bishop Solomon.

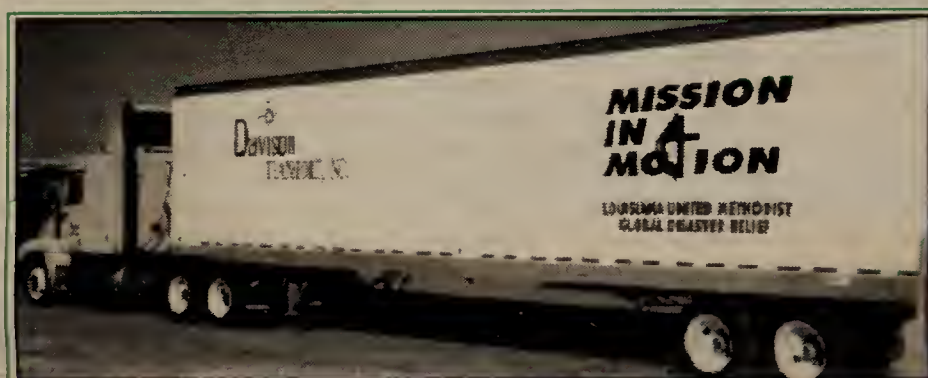
Photo by Edie Myer

The innovative program, which features a 40-foot tractor-trailer that will roll from district to district in the next nine months, was kicked off Sun., Jan. 25 at Blackwater UMC in Baker (Baton Rouge District). Bishop Dan Solomon, author of the plan, presided over the ceremony which was also attended by Baton Rouge District Superintendent Dr. Leslie Norris; Freneaux; Rev. Doug deGraffenried, senior pastor of Blackwater; Rev. Byrl Moreland, associate pastor of Blackwater; Griff Bourgeois, Baton Rouge District coordinator of MIM; and Bernice Thompson, Blackwater church coordinator for MIM.

Children of the Blackwater congregation presented flood relief supplies to the bishop during the ceremony and members of the congregation offered 25 Korean food boxes.

The trailer will stay at Blackwater until Feb. 5 when it will be moved to Ingleside UMC in midtown Baton Rouge. On Feb. 19 it will go to First UMC, Gonzales until the end of the month when it is transferred to the UMCOR Depot in Baldwin to be unloaded. In March, it begins its month-long sojourn in the North Shore District.

(See page 4 for related list)



### The ecumenical trailer story

Davison Trucking, Ruston, has provided the trailer for Mission in Motion (pictured above) to the Louisiana Conference at no cost (including painting the logo on it and paying for the insurance for one year). Davison also provided the truck and trailer which transported the 30,000 pair of tennis shoes collected during the Special Session on Children in Need last Oct. from Pineville to the UMCOR depot in Baldwin.

Pretty generous, considering the owner, James Davison, is Baptist. "We are happy to do this; we want to be ecumenical," he told Ruston District Superintendent Jimmie Pyles.

"And it's not an abandoned or shabby one they fixed up for us," says Pyles. "Davison has offered us one of the finest trailers in their fleet. We are grateful and moved by their generosity and support of our mission."

Photo by Jimmie Pyle

## Bishop first to preach in North Korea since war

by Bishop Dan E. Solomon  
Louisiana Annual Conference

A United Methodist delegation from the General Board of Global Ministries visited North Korea Jan 10-13 to assess United Methodist relief initiatives in response to agricultural disasters and to express solidarity with the small Christian community in North Korea.

Delegation members were Bishop Dan E. Solomon, president of the General Board of Global Ministries and bishop of the Louisiana Annual Conference; Mrs. Jane Bucher, Women's Division Finance chair; Mrs. Jerry Williams, South Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Women's president; Dr. Randolph Nugent, General Board of Global Ministries general secretary; and Dr. Michael Hahm, General Board of Global Ministries staff.

The General Board of Global Ministries delegation worshipped with North Korean Christians on Sunday morning in the Bonzsu congregation in Pyongyang, where Bishop Solomon preached. It is believed that he is the first United Methodist bishop since the Korean War to preach in a Christian church in North Korea.

Following the worship service the delegation met with leaders of the Korean Christian Federation and the Bonzsu congregation. The Korean Christian Federation



Bishop Dan E. Solomon and Rev. Lee, pastor of the Bonzsu Christian Church in Pyongyang, stand in front of the church where Bishop Solomon preached. (It is believed that he is the first UM bishop to preach in a Christian church in North Korea since the Korean War.) Pastor Lee is wearing a stole presented to him by Bishop Solomon.

continues to bear its witness for Christ and to offer encouragement to its members amidst difficult circumstances.

Meetings with government leaders, visits to places of historical significance in Pyongyang, talks with international relief staff, and tours of a woman's

hospital and children's center were included in the delegation's visit.

While North Korean government officials expressed their government's gratitude for United Methodist relief assistance, the GBGM delegation expressed keen disappointment in not being permitted to visit relief operations and food distribution centers. Historically, the North Korean system has been closed to outside contact, though there are now some signs of openness.

World Food Program personnel operating in North Korea were quite reassuring that relief supplies are not only urgently needed, but that, in fact, humanitarian aid is reaching the people who need it.

The delegation was heartened by its contact with the Christian community, as well as its conversation with World Food Program staffer, Eric Weingartner. Mr. Weingartner is assigned to the World Food Program, a United Nations initiative, by ACT, a coalition of faith-based communities united for relief under the auspices of The World Council of Churches.

Bishop Solomon noted, "Since countless children and adults in North Korea are victimized by economic, political and agricultural failures, it is vital that United Methodists continue to be Christ's caring neighbors in the midst of this crisis."





## Being and Doing

### On A Journey



What a thrilling sight to see 2 gleaming white forty-foot trailer, identified by the "Mission In Motion" logo, parked in a church parking lot ready to receive Louisiana United Methodism's outpouring of love and help for suffering persons.

Mission in Motion personifies the compassion of a connectional people. It gives concrete expression to an energetic paragraph heading in our 1996 Discipline, "The Journey of a Connectional People."

*"Connectionalism in the United Methodist tradition is multi-leveled, global in scope, and local in thrust. Our connectionalism is not merely a linking of one charge conference to another. It is, rather, a vital web of interactive relationships.*

*We are connected by sharing a common tradition of faith, including our Doctrinal Standards and General Rules (¶ 62); by sharing together a constitutional polity, including a leadership of general superintendency; by sharing a common mission, which we seek to carry out by working together in and through conferences that reflect the inclusive and missional character of our fellowship; by sharing a common ethos that characterizes our distinctive way of doing things." (¶ 109)*

United Methodism's "distinctive way of doing things" consistently includes a methodology for mission. Mission in Motion represents a connectional methodology.

Each month the Mission in Motion trailer will be in a specific district within the Louisiana Conference. During that month the trailer will be moved to different locations to receive the "compassion contents" gathered by our United Methodist folks, items such as cleaning supplies, water, food boxes for Korea, mops, brooms, clothing, bulk quantity foods, seeds, etc. These and other items will be transported to Sager-Brown, United Methodism's global disaster response facility for collecting and shipping supplies to designated disaster areas around the world.

What a thrill it was on my recent visit to North Korea to hear one of the United Nations staff persons report on his recent

visit to the home of a hungry family in a rural area of North Korea, "I saw one of your UMCOR food boxes on a little table in the home. You can be assured it was really needed."

"Journey" describes Methodism's compassionate outreach. From John Wesley, who regularly visited the poor "to relieve their suffering," to the remarkable Advance for Christ that helped rebuild a war-devastated Europe in the 1940's and '50s, Methodism has journeyed the globe to feed the hungry, clothe the ill-clad, relieve suffering, and declare in Jesus' name our readiness to help people, all kinds of people, in all kinds of places, in all kinds of circumstances.

In recent days I have heard several persons testify to the blessing and transformation that has happened in their congregation as a result of their congregation's serious and renewed effort to engage in ministries of outreach and compassion. One person said it this way, "When we took care of ourselves, that was all that happened, just taking care of ourselves. We never did what we always said we were trying to do, help others. Then this year it is different. We went ahead to care for others first. When we did that, we not only did better than ever for ourselves, we had the best financial campaign for next year's budget that we have ever had."

Isn't "journey" a marvelous word? It reeks of getting on with it. Journey is not "rhetoric-sufficient." It leaves us no room to feel that "to talk about it is equivalent to doing something about it." No, journey is a word that requires movement and response.

Mission in Motion is movement and response! Let us be diligent and faithful in every congregation to gather the contents of compassion and bring them to the Mission in Motion trailer when the trailer is in our district. To engage in a journey of help for others is to experience healing for ourselves.

Dan E. Solomon

## NACCD elects Akin president

At its biennial meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico Jan. 14-17, the National Association of Conference Council Directors (NACCD) elected Rev. Leslie Akin, Louisiana Conference Area Director of Gospel Communications, president. She will serve for a two-year term.

The purpose of the NACCD is to affirm and strengthen the role and function of conference council directors



across the country.

"Given the structural changes occurring in many of our annual conferences," Akin says, "the NACCD faces the challenge of finding common ground for persons with different titles and functions."

The NACCD is governed by an executive committee composed of twelve members, two from each jurisdiction and two members from the General Council on Ministries, one of whom is the GCOM General Secretary.

## Stepping out on faith

### Giving by 'first fruits': We can do our part

by Rev. Becky Conner  
Pastor, Jefferson UMC

Last year about this time, we received a letter from Bishop Solomon explaining the idea of "First Fruits" giving. It was a great idea, but we were not sure if we would be able to do it. We are a small church, and were struggling to meet our financial responsibilities. We had only paid 35 percent of our apportionments. It was not because we did not want to pay more, but we usually designated fundraising activities to help meet those apportionments. Scarcely was enough money raised.

I shared the Bishop's letter with our church officers. Curtis Portinari, administrative council chairperson, read the bishop's letter and agreed that we ought to try it for 1997. He presented the

idea to the congregation on a Sunday morning, and promoted "First Fruits" giving. I was not sure if we would be able to do this, but we decided to step out in faith and try it.

To my surprise, it has worked out better than our previous method. Taking one month at a time, paying weekly, we have managed to pay 100 percent of our apportionments. Every week in the bulletin we list the amount needed weekly for Conference and District apportionments along with last week's offering amount.

We want to support the connectional ministries of The United Methodist Church, and we are happy that in 1997 we have been able to do our part. We plan to continue "First Fruits" giving for 1998. Hopefully, more churches will try "First Fruits" giving. It does work!

*Editor's note: First Fruits is a method of paying apportionments which involves taking the total amount of the apportionment, dividing by 52 and each week paying that amount before any other bills are paid.*

## A Word to Witness

### Eulogy for a 20-year-old

*It was a violent act on a day celebrating non-violence. At a Martin Luther King Day parade Jan. 19 in Baton Rouge, shots suddenly scattered the crowd. Six days after his twentieth birthday, James "J.B." Carter lay dead; three other children, ages seven, nine and eleven were seriously wounded, but alive. A nineteen-year-old suspect has been arrested and charged with murder.*

*J.B., the grandson of Mrs. Scottie Ripple, longtime member of Neely UMC in Baton Rouge, attended church with his grandmother as a child. His funeral was held at the church he had drifted away from as he matured into a young adult.*

*Pastor Arnold Brown delivered a powerful message of hope and love. As he eulogized a young life, he challenged: "Young men, come back to God. There is always hope and the ability to turn your life around when Jesus comes on the scene."*

*The LUM Review asked Rev. Brown to share his thoughts on this occasion with our readers. His response follows.*

--Bobbie Armstrong, Editor

by Rev. Arnold V. Brown  
Pastor, Neely UMC, Baton Rouge

A few nights ago I delivered the most difficult eulogy I have ever had to do. It was for a 20-year-old young man who was shot while participating in a Martin Luther King Day parade. The church was packed to overflowing--grief-stricken youth and children made up a sizeable part of the congregation.

As a result of that funeral, I realize now, like never before, that the church must play a major part in helping to change the ever-worsening environment of crime and destruction our children are subject to daily.

With this in mind, I believe that Acts, chapter 3 speaks to us in a powerful way. Peter and John went to pray and as they were entering the temple they met a crippled man at the gate called "Beautiful" begging for alms. Peter uttered the words, "Silver and gold have I none, but, such as I have, give I thee; rise up and walk." Peter also had no silver and gold to offer, but he, too, gave "such as he had." Because what they offered came from the Holy Spirit, the crippled man was healed and followed them into the temple.

Today, we still meet the lame man at the gate "Beautiful." The lame man "in need" takes on many faces, but recently he has manifested himself as youth and children at risk in our communities. As local churches, we have a choice. We can turn our heads and say that we can't help the problem, or we can do like Peter and John, and offer "such as we have" as it comes from the Holy Spirit.

A single local church does not have the resources to solve the problem. But, like Peter and John, each individual church can offer "such as it has." If all our churches would think in this manner, we could go a long way toward solving the problem.

I challenge the pastors and lay leadership of this conference to hear God speaking to us from Acts, chapter 3. You can't solve all of the problems by yourself. But based upon the resources that your church has (such as you have), you can do something that will help heal our children and youth who are at risk and, like the lame man, standing at "Gate Beautiful."

Will you open it and help to end the need for eulogies for 20-year-old victims of violence?



## DID YOU KNOW?

### Answers and issues of poverty

by Joanne White  
Chair, Conference Task Force on  
Children and Poverty

Who are the poor? What is it like to feel hopelessly isolated from the world of opportunity--as a child, a young person, an adult? What do the poor need from others like us?

Any reading of the Gospel leaves no doubt about our Lord's devotion to the poor and outcast. The Council of Bishops brought challenge anew with its 1996-2000 Initiative on Children and Poverty formulated to remind United Methodist churches that we first and foremost exist to be of service to those in need. We have both serious responsibilities and exciting privileges in opportunities for helping bring others love and caring in the name of Christ.

The Louisiana Edition of United Methodist Review will have a "Did You Know?" column throughout 1998 containing facts about the poor far and near in our world today. Widely

recognized experts will be quoted for their conclusions and proposed solutions to alleviate and/or eliminate poverty. Your task force will sift through volumes written and spoken about poverty to bring you the most authoritative information we can find. Together we can gain a greater understanding of the poor and ways we can make life better for all we can possibly reach.

Dr. Chris Andrews will be leading the Legislative Liaison Committee in studying public policies and legislation. Dr. Don Cottrill will lead a group studying spiritual issues including classism in today's world and in the church. Dr. Anita Crump and Mrs. Joanne White will lead groups researching the spiritual, economic, social and educational issues the poor face daily.

Your suggestions and participation in these studies are welcomed. Please contact me at 318-443-1349 or at 99 Woodland Drive, Boyce, LA 71409 if you have questions or concerns.

## Louisiana Conference membership increases for second year

by Dr. Stone W. Caraway  
Executive Director, Administrative Services

Increase in membership in the Louisiana Conference is going in the right direction. The increase went from 267 in 1996 to 577 in 1997. Louisiana United Methodists now number 126,459.

Every single number in a sum total is a child of God. God cares for each one whether in or out of the community of faith. May he continue to bless our efforts to be his witnesses.

### MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS - DECEMBER 31, 1997

| ACADIANA    | LAKE CHARLES | NORTH SHORE |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| '96 11,757  | '96 10,853   | '96 13,860  |
| '97 11,835  | '97 10,973   | '97 14,196  |
| + 78        | + 120        | + 336       |
| ALEXANDRIA  | MONROE       | RUSTON      |
| '96 8,395   | '96 12,317   | '96 9,615   |
| '97 8,390   | '97 12,194   | '97 9,573   |
| - 5         | - 123        | - 42        |
| BATON ROUGE | NEW ORLEANS  | SHREVEPORT  |
| '96 22,522  | '96 15,494   | '96 21,069  |
| '97 22,826  | '97 15,464   | '97 21,008  |
| + 304       | -30          | - 61        |

TOTALS  
+838-261= +577

## Centenary choir entertains at White House

The Centenary College Choir (pictured right) was recently honored with another first — an invitation to sing at The White House Dec. 5. The choir sang for one and-a-half hours entertaining six hundred guests as they arrived for the first reception of the Christmas season hosted by President and Mrs. Clinton. They performed on the staircase leading from the public to the family area of the White House.

After all of the guests had departed, the Clintons visited with the young people and then asked them to sing a song just for them. "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" was sung, with the President joining in on the refrain. Mrs. Clinton and others were moved to tears.

The choir is now holding auditions for



next fall's choir. Young people interested in being in the choir, regardless of their intended academic major, should contact Dr. Will Andress before the end of February at (318) 429-6887 or at Centenary College, 2911 Centenary Blvd., Shreveport, LA 71104.



disciples for Jesus Christ—we are engaged in the following:

### Developing District Ministry Teams

Each district is in the process of naming their district ministry teams. To date the following district teams have begun their training process: North Shore, Lake Charles, Shreveport, Ruston, and Monroe. Training workshops are scheduled in February and March for Baton Rouge, Acadiana, New Orleans, and Alexandria districts.

### Hiring District Missioners

To date the following persons have been hired as part-time district missioners:

Betsy Eaves (Shreveport District)  
Jean Foreman (Lake Charles District)

It is anticipated that these positions will become full-time in June.

### Operating Quality Discernment Teams\*

The Board of Ordained Ministry and Cabinet Quality Discernment Teams are meeting together. They are looking at issues that affect both systems, such as the role and salary of the district superintendents and effective ministry assessment tools for all elders. In addition, they are ascertaining appropriate follow-through of recommendations approved at the 1997 Annual Conference.

A significant focus for both of these groups last year was spiritual formation for clergy and laity. Both discernment teams suggested an intentional learning environment for spiritual renewal. An update on what was previously named the "Academy" will be forthcoming in the next issue of the Review.

The CFA Quality Discernment Team is working with the other QDTs and reflecting on the impact of their decisions on finances and CFA.

*\*The purpose of a QDT is to discern, guide, identify points of constraint and evaluate a specific system's effectiveness in tangibly moving toward the vision and mission of the Louisiana Annual Conference.*

### ..... IMPORTANT NOTICE .....

**A message for clergy who are considering requesting the retired relationship effective this upcoming session of the Annual Conference:**

The Book of Discipline states, "Requests for retirement shall be stated in writing to the Bishop, Cabinet and Board of Ordained Ministry at least one hundred twenty days prior to the date on which retirement is to be effective." (Paragraph 355) No. 1 in the same paragraph continues: "Every clergy member of an Annual Conference who will have attained age seventy on or before July 1 in the year in which the conference is held shall automatically be retired." (Please still send request to designated persons.)

As the 1998-1999 Conference year begins June 16, 1998, that is the date on which retirement will become effective and pension payments will begin. One hundred and twenty days from that point is February 15, 1998 (the date by which all requests should be received). -- Dr. Stone Caraway, Executive Director-Administrative Services

### Teleconference offers a 'dance' on the web

The UM Teleconference Connection is offering a live, interactive satellite teleconference called "Dancing on the Web" March 17 from 12:30 -2 p.m.

The teleconference is designed to help the faith community take full advantage of the Internet to tell faith stories. It will provide practical demonstrations of planning, creating, using and improvising Web sites for beginning and intermediate



Web users. The cost will be \$20 per person.

If your church is interested in registering as a downlink site, please contact the UM Teleconference

Connection at (212) 870-3802.

And let us know. We'll print downlink sites in the Review.

### Survey explores religion on the Internet

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) - Internet users are being invited to help religious leaders learn how to plan for future use of the worldwide computer network.

United Methodist Communications is sponsoring a research project aimed at discovering the extent and nature of religion on the Internet. Study results will

be available on the Internet and sent to religious leaders across denominational lines.

Questionnaires are available to anyone on the Internet at:

<http://www.religion-research.org/question1.htm>. A project description is available at <http://www.religion-research.org>.

### OMISSION

One church was omitted from the Special Recognition section on page 4 of the Jan. 23 edition of the Review.

In addition to paying 100 percent of 1997 apportionments, the Fellowship Church in the Alexandria District paid on General Advance Specials, Conference Advance Specials and each of the General Church Offerings.

We apologize for the omission.





# AROUND THE CONFERENCE

## NEWS

### Grant money available for youth programs

Do you have an idea for a youth program, but don't have the money?

Apply by April 15 for a one-time mini-grant of \$2,500 to \$5,000 from the Shared Mission Focus on Young People. Call 937-227-9400 for an application form.

The four-year, \$3 million initiative mandated by the 1996 General Conference recently awarded \$1.3 million in grants to eight conferences and ten churches.

Reprinted from United Methodist NEWSCOPE.

## Mission in Motion

### Schedule of Districts/Coordinators

|              |                                                                    |               |                               |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Feb.</b>  | BATON ROUGE<br>Griffon Bourgeois<br>Gerald Hook, Asst.             | <b>June</b>   | SHREVEPORT<br>Nell Inman      |
| <b>March</b> | NORTH SHORE<br>Curt Shrewsbury, Co-Coor.<br>Bil George, Co-Coor.   | <b>July</b>   | MONROE<br>Marcelle Crow       |
| <b>April</b> | NEW ORLEANS<br>Joseph Burke, Co-Coor.<br>Don Schaneville, Co-Coor. | <b>August</b> | ALEXANDRIA<br>Elzie Gauntz    |
| <b>May</b>   | RUSTON<br>Doug Milliron                                            | <b>Sept.</b>  | LAKE CHARLES<br>Walter Strong |
|              |                                                                    | <b>Oct.</b>   | ACADIANA<br>Sarah Schoeffler  |

## MISSION IN MOTION

Contact your local church pastor now if you would like to serve as your church's coordinator and be a vital link in Mission in Motion. Don't forget to volunteer to help unload and package items at the UMCOR Depot in Baldwin.

## UMCOR Relief Supplies List

(All items should be new.)

### Cleaning Supplies

Scouring pads  
Dish detergent  
Laundry detergent  
Household cleaner  
Pails  
Rubber gloves/masks  
Insect sprays  
Disinfectant  
Trash bags  
Mops/brooms  
Cleaning towels, rags

### Pet Foods

Dry and canned

### Hand Tools

Rakes  
Shovels  
Water hose  
Hammer/nails  
Flashlights/batteries  
Extension cords  
Paint brush/rollers

### Personal Items

Soaps/shampoo  
Toothbrush/  
toothpaste  
Lotion  
Feminine hygiene products  
First aid supplies  
Razors  
Comb/brush  
Deodorants  
Sun screen  
Adult diapers  
Dental floss  
Insect repellent

### Paper Goods

Paper towels, cups, plates, bowls  
Toilet tissue  
Plastic cutlery  
Napkins  
Boxes for take-out meals  
Zip lock bags

Coffee filters  
Plastic/foil wrap  
Facial tissues

### Baby Goods

Disposable diapers  
Wipes, pacifiers  
Powders/lotions  
Non-perishable foods  
New clothes  
Soft toys

### Linens

Towels, wash cloths  
Sheets, blankets, pillows  
Dish cloths, etc.

### Foods

Non-perishable  
canned and dry  
Canned drinks  
Juices  
Bottled water  
Hand-operated can

openers  
Cooking pots/pans  
Cooking oil  
Coffee/tea  
Salt/pepper

### Protective Clothing for Clean Up

Dust masks  
Protective eye wear  
Foot protectors/boots

### For Re-Construction

(enough to be used for temporary or minor repair)  
Visquene  
Staples/nails  
1/2 inch plywood  
2x4s  
Sheet rock  
15 lb. Roofing felt  
30 lb. Fleshing  
210 lb. Asphalt shingles--self-sealing

## Let's connect . . .

Send us your news (typed copy — not all caps, please — with a contact name and number) and photos (color okay) to:  
Bobbie Armstrong  
Editor  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

## NOTEWORTHY...

**Springtime on the Mountain** older adult program at Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville, Ark., will be held May 4-7. Rev. Larry Norman, pastor, Evangeline UMC, Baton Rouge, is the program director. Events include great classes, Bible study, lots of fun and a Stargazing party. Contact Larry at (504) 356-4459 for details.

The **Society of St. Andrew Harvest of Hope** is offering senior-high work-study camp in Mer Rouge, La. July 19-25. The camp will focus on gleanings crops, issues related to hunger, worship and community. Teams of five youth and one adult from a church are invited to participate. Contact Susan Allen at 1-800-333-4597 for an application or information. Application deadline is April 1.

The **Camp Aldersgate Mission Experience (CAME)** Program is now accepting applications for its summer 1998 sessions in Little Rock, Ark. This is a Christian outreach program hosting youth and adult groups from around the nation to engage in home repair and maintenance for senior citizens. The cost is \$185 per camper. Participants must be at least 14-years-old. For more information or to register, call 501-225-1444.

The **Lake Charles District Annual Laity Banquet** will be held Sunday, Feb. 15 at Henning UMC in Sulphur beginning at 3:45 p.m. Featured guests are the Revs. Juanita and Rudy Rasmus from St. John's UMC in Houston. They took the originally nine-member church to its current 2,500 membership and have an inspiring story to share. Everyone is invited to this ecumenical event. The cost is \$8 per person; reservations are required by noon Feb. 12. Call 318-439-2982 for information or registration.

**Lafon Nursing Home Auxiliary** of The UMC in New Orleans is conducting a membership drive through March. Anyone of any denomination is invited to join in support of caring for the afflicted and infirmed. Membership categories range from Memorials (\$150), Life (\$100), Organizations (\$50), Sustaining (\$25), Active (\$5) to Student (\$2). Make checks payable to Lafon Nursing Home Auxiliary and mail to: 4021 Cadillac Street, New Orleans, LA 70122. Lafon's Annual Founder's Day service will be held Feb. 22 at St. James UMC, 1925 Ursuline Ave., New Orleans at 11 a.m.

**CONFERENCE OFFICE**  
**TOLL-FREE NUMBER:**  
**1.888.239.5286**

## In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to:

Rev. Ray Leidig, pastor, Golden Meadow-Grand Isle, on the death of his father, Ray Leidig, Sr., Jan. 16. His funeral was held Jan. 19 in Westlake.

Rev. Austin Smith, associate pastor, First UMC Bossier City, on the death of his brother, Velton Smith, Jan. 20. His funeral was held Jan. 22 in Bossier City.

Rev. Frances Hooton, associate pastor, St. Timothy-On-The-North Shore UMC in Mandeville, on the death of her grandmother, Mrs. Ruby Campbell, Jan. 24. Her funeral was held Jan. 28 in Dunedin, Fla.

the family of Mrs. Mary McKnight, surviving spouse of Alton A. McKnight (Shreveport District), who died Jan. 25. Services were held Jan. 29 in Shreveport with burial in Fisher, La., Jan. 31.

Louisiana Conference Edition  
of the  
United Methodist Review  
Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Leslie N. Akin, Director,  
Gospel Communications  
Bobbie Armstrong, Editor  
Dr. Alonzo J. Campbell, Liz Lucas

Subscriptions \$12.50 per year  
Send subscriptions, news and  
information to:  
Editor

527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
1(888) 239-5286  
(504)346-1646, (504)383-2652 fax  
e-mail: laumc@premier.net

### On the Web

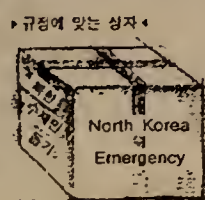
The Louisiana Annual Conference has a newly revised homepage. You can find us at  
<http://www.gbgn-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>.

### DEADLINE FOR:

February 20 Issue--February 9  
March 6 Issue--February 23

## Korean Food Box Items Needed

20 lb. bag rice, long grain (not instant or minute rice)  
4-5 lb. bag powdered milk  
4 lb. can lard or shortening (wrap in plastic)  
4 lbs. canned meat (chicken, ham, tuna, sardines or turkey)



1 lb. solid chocolate candy bars taped together (no nuts or cooking chocolate)  
1 new comb/brush set  
1 small (less than 6") hand-held trowel and garden rake  
\$20 per box for shipping

## Conference Program Calendar

### February

- 7 Shalom Zone, Monroe District
- 8 VIM Gathering and Banquet, Conference Center, 4-7 p.m.
- 12-13 Cabinet Meeting, Conference Center
- 13-15 National Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders, Nashville, TN
- 25 Ash Wednesday

### March

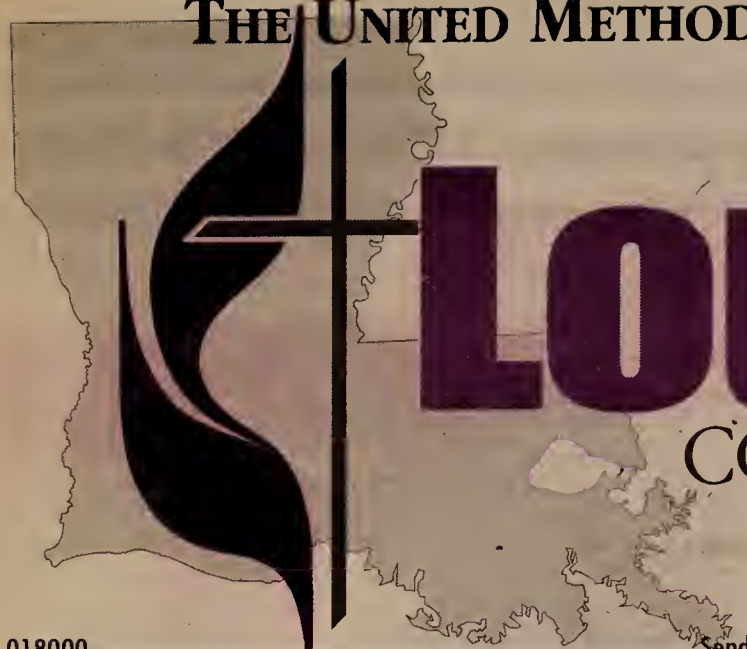
- 2 UM Foundation Bishop's Society Banquet, Shreveport
- 3 UM Foundation Bishop's Society Banquet, Conference Center
- 4 UM Foundation Bishop's Society Banquet, New Orleans
- 5 UM Foundation Bishop's Society Banquet, Baton Rouge
- 7 Shalom Zone, Monroe District
- 9-12 Cabinet Meeting

- 10-11 Town and Country 10th Annual Spring Retreat, Conference Center
- 23-24 Gathering of Elders, Conference Center, Noon-Noon
- 26-29 Cursillo #63, Conference Center
- 30-Apr 2 Cabinet Meeting

### April

- 2 UM Foundation Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Baton Rouge
- 4 Confirmation Day with the Bishop, Conference Center
- 12 Easter Sunday
- 14-16 Cabinet Meeting
- 25 Shalom Zone Training, Monroe District
- 25-5/1 Council of Bishops
- 27-29 Spring Interviews for Local Pastors
- 30-5/2 Cursillo #64, Conference Center





# Louisiana

## CONFERENCE *edition*

Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
504.346.1646  
/504.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

018000

Send P.O. Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

Vol 15 No 5 ■ February 20, 1998

## Louisiana Volunteers in Mission: Doorway to Discipleship

### Bishop's banquet address praises transformative powers of VIM

by Bobbie Armstrong  
LUM Review Editor

It was a night rich with the excitement of mission as over 250 United Methodists from around the state gathered Feb. 8 at the Conference Center in Woodworth for the first annual Louisiana Volunteers in Mission banquet. They came to share experiences from past trips, to encourage others to join them and to hear about upcoming mission opportunities.

After viewing colorful displays of missions accomplished and missions upcoming and attending mini-information sessions on international, medical and construction missions as well as other VIM topics, attendees enjoyed a delicious meal and a mission-inspiring and mission-enlightening address by Bishop Dan Solomon.

VIM is a top priority in the Louisiana Conference, the bishop said, "because it changes lives and it changes churches. When you reach out and touch the suffering, you will touch the Christ who is already there."

This is a truth United Methodists have been experiencing since Methodism's founder, John Wesley, preached to poor and oppressed workers in the fields at Bristol, Bishop Solomon said. As the first VIMer, he continued, Wesley went reluctantly at a friend's insistence, but the experience changed his life forever, an experience chronicled time after time by modern day Volunteers in Mission.

By 1999, Bishop Solomon said, Louisiana's VIM program will sponsor at least 50 mission teams and will soon have a full-time VIM director. Why this focus on mission? he asked. "First, VIM is 'out of the way,'" he said. "When we go out of our way to help others, to let go of some of the insulation that surrounds us in our communities, God will meet us in a new way."

"Second, VIM is on the way to Christ," he continued. "It's not that we take Christ to the suffering. We make the connection that is so transformative with the Christ who is *already there among the suffering.*"



Rev. Larry Norman (pastor, Evangeline UMC, Baton Rouge), chair of the Louisiana VIM Task Force which planned the banquet, offers the invocation.

The third reason for a VIM-centered conference, Bishop Solomon said, is that, "VIM is a doorway to discipleship. It engages us in a maturing faith journey."

Prior to the banquet, attendees visited booths displaying pictures and artifacts from mission trips all over the world including Ghana, Mexico, Bosnia and Bolivia. Churches also showed their work in mission areas in the U.S. The Methodist Home for Children in New Orleans, Methodist Children's Home in Ruston, Dulac Cooperative Ministry, UMCOR Sager-Brown, and Heifer Project International also offered information on mission opportunities from their booths at the event.

During brief information sessions held every 15 minutes, volunteers gave talks on experiences and opportunities for domestic, international, intergenerational, youth, construction, medical, and disaster response missions.

The evening's message was: If you are not already involved in the VIM movement rolling through Louisiana, prepare to climb on board. "We are ready to take the next step into outreach befitting a maturing VIM-focused annual conference," said Bishop Solomon.

Reluctant? Maybe...but, get ready to be transformed.

### Angels on a Mission to help youth

She calls them "Angels with a Mission." They are the very beautiful answers to Sandra Carlton's prayers to find a way to help kids in the United Christian Youth Missions travel to Coweta, Oklahoma this summer for their Native American Mission '98.

"It was an idea that came from God," says Sandra, wife of Rev. David Carlton, pastor, Clay-Quitman UMCs. "This is totally a gift from Him."

The hand-made angels cost \$20 each and come in all sizes and colors; they can be customized on request and are also available in African-American and Native American versions. Proceeds go to buy supplies and



materials for the youth organization's mission trip August 10-16.

United Christian Youth Missions is based at Quitman UMC, but is made up of Spirit-filled kids, Sandra says, age 12-18 from local churches. "When we first started this mission group for youth, we had two kids attend. We decided to open it up to other churches in the area, and it has really taken off," she says.

The group will be helping with construction projects at the Native American UMC church in Coweta and learning Native American customs.

Call Sandra at (318) 259-9113 to place your "Angel" order.

Photos by Bobbie Armstrong.



Rev. Clifton Conrad, pastor, Calvary UMC, Thibodeaux, stands at an interesting display of artifacts from a recent VIM trip to Ghana.



Diners at the VIM banquet enjoy fellowship with other mission-minded United Methodists from around the state.

Photos above and left by Robert Ross.

### On the inside

- 2 We are Easter people
- 2 Banner year for making disciples
- 3 Meet the District Ministry Teams
- 3 Parsons Golfing Around
- 4 Rayne Memorial dedicates library



Churches with largest number of new members  
Page 4





## Being and Doing

### The Momentum Is Building

The signs are quite positive regarding the responses of our congregations to the urgent funding needs of our newly constructed Louisiana Conference Center.

In late fall of 1997, a letter went to every congregation, its pastor and lay leaders expressing gratitude to those congregations who had paid in full their Fair Share Goal, as well as calling every congregation to renewed faithfulness in meeting their full Fair Share Goal. A video was prepared that told the story of the dream for the Conference Center, its subsequent construction and the challenge we are now facing in meeting the debt service.

The indebtedness on the Conference Center is now \$3,000,000 (Three Million Dollars). All interest has been paid to date. All construction costs have been paid. Additional construction in keeping with the master plan is awaiting debt reduction. Thus far, the bank has not required permanent financing. Our present loan is for one year, with the option to extend the loan being based on significant reduction of the principal, as well as keeping current on the interest payments.

Because of the fine response of our churches and many generous special gifts, an amount of \$200,000 will be paid this month on the principal of the Conference Center note. It is my sincere hope that an additional \$500,000 can be paid by Annual Conference 1998. To meet such a lofty challenge will mean that every congregation that has not paid its full Fair Share Goal will need to make a substantial payment toward that goal.

The Conference Center Board of Trustees has utilized the services of a Blue Ribbon Committee of Louisiana business leaders to evaluate the Center's operation, including marketing, budgeting and board oversight. The Committee has made specific recommendations that are now being addressed by the Board and its committees. In addition, a consultant in conference center ministry has made an on-site visit and has shared suggestions with the operations committee of the Board.

Our Conference Center is already rendering great service to the mission of Louisiana United Methodism. Thousands of persons have been involved in spiritual renewal retreats, training sessions, envisioning and planning meetings and worship gatherings. Over 700 confirmation class youth were present last spring for a day of discernment and growth. More are expected this spring. On Sunday

evening, February 8, over 250 persons gathered at a special Volunteers In

Mission banquet that filled to capacity the Center's dining room. We can be greatly pleased that we have an outstanding facility performing outstanding ministry.

The quality and validity of the Conference Center's ministry only adds to the importance and urgency of meeting our debt service. In addition to payments on the principal, we must meet a daily interest payment of \$553.00. Of course, the only way to reduce this daily amount of interest is to pay down the principal as quickly as possible.

It is extremely important that every congregation in Louisiana use the video that tells the story of the Conference Center's ministry and challenge.

Likewise, every congregation must approach its support of the Conference Center in relationship to its original Fair Share Goal. Some churches have already exceeded their Fair Share Goal, while others have met the goal in full. However, many congregations need to take bold steps toward the goal. The only hope we have to share equitably in paying the full indebtedness on the Conference Center is for every congregation to pay their original Fair Share Goal in full.

The encouraging word is: THE MOMENTUM IS BUILDING!!! I am convinced we can and we must join together to achieve the victory. God will see us through!

*Dan E. Solomon*

Dan E. Solomon

Make Plans to Attend  
the

1998 Clergy Spouse Retreat

Louisiana Conference Center

April 17-18, 1998

Featuring Retreat Leader  
Joy Solomon

Sponsored by the Monroe District



## Bishop applauds 1997 as banner year in giving and making disciples

Year-end totals reveal that the Louisiana Conference has reached a twelve-year high in professions of faith, with 2,547 having professed their faith in Christ during 1997. These Professions of Faith represent a 14 percent increase over 1996. Not since 1985, when Professions of Faith totaled 2,558, has the Louisiana Conference recorded in excess of 2,500 professions of faith.

The largest total giving in the history of the Louisiana Conference was recorded in 1997, with \$62,795,605 being given for all purposes in local churches, annual, jurisdictional and General Conference. The 1997 total exceeds by nine percent the total giving reported in 1996.

In commenting on 1997 as a banner

year, Bishop Solomon noted, "Professions of faith are at the heart of our mission. Isn't it wonderful to think about the lives and families that are blessed by these professions?"

The banner year financially was not without its accolades. "Life-changing results will flow from the front-line ministries supported by United Methodists. Here is ministry that is accountable, compassionate and transforming," the bishop said.

The laity, pastors, and church leaders of the Louisiana Conference are to be commended for their dedicated labor in helping the conference fulfill its mission to make disciples and to care for those in need.

## Harrington author in '98 Upper Room Disciplines

Dr. Peter (H. A.) Harrington, pastor of St. Matthew's UMC in Metairie, has written devotions for the week of The Transfiguration (Feb. 22-March 1) for the 1998 *Upper Room Disciplines*.

The *Disciplines* are one of America's most read devotions, written by invitation a week at a time by 52 scholars, authors, pastors and religious



writers from across the nation.

The *Upper Room Disciplines* are available through the Upper Room (1-800-925-6847) or through Cokesbury (1-800-672-1789).

Congratulations, Pete!

## A Word to Witness

### We are Easter people

by Rev. Terry C. Willis  
District Superintendent  
Acadiana District

I watched the sun rise this morning for the first time in a long while, and I remembered the words of the Psalmist: "...joy comes with the morning."

In a few days, we begin the season of Lent. It is a simple fact that the first Easter morning is the beginning of the Christian faith. Thus, we are Easter people, people of the dawn. So Easter becomes the morning that ends mourning, that brings hope, not only for that day, but for every day.

Of all the lessons that must be learned, the one that means the most to our well-being is how to deal with the unwelcome experiences, discouragements which are a part of life such as we as a nation are experiencing by the unanswered questions of alleged acts of immorality by our president. These past couple of weeks have been trying times filled with mixed emotions as we have stayed glued to our television sets and witnessed the unfolding events and crises in the White House, wondering where and how it will all end.

I saw a cartoon some time ago which portrayed a man in a psychiatrist's office. There were shelves of books along each wall from floor to ceiling, as well as a display of diplomas and credentials. The psychiatrist is listening intensely as the

man pours out his life's story. And then something startles the patient. In the corner of the room, the wallpaper is coming unglued, rolling up, revealing that the books and diplomas are just clever pictures on the wall paper. Here this man has spent his money, hours of his time, placing his trust in a fraud. There are no words, but simply a horrified expression on the patient's face.

I think this portrays rather graphically the way we often feel as we watch the leadership of our nation, and other areas of our lives, unravel before our eyes. We put our trust in things and in people only to discover they have feet of clay and offer only false security and false hopes.

I hope and pray that these allegations are untrue. But, most importantly, I remember our ultimate hope lies not in things or in people, but in Christ. We are Easter people and we must never forget that. My prayer is that we, as a nation, who "in God we trust" not react in hopelessness, despair or vengeance, but in the certain faith that our God is greater than sin, greater than evil, greater than death, and that crime and brutality and injustice will not have the last word.

I watched the sunrise this morning, and it was Easter all over again.

Reprinted with permission from *Around Acadiana* (Feb. 1998), the Acadiana District newsletter.







## Interfaith summit examines impact of welfare reform on children

by Rev. Jeff Conner  
Pastor, Carrollton-Napoleon  
Avenue UMCs, New Orleans



Peter Edelman

On Saturday, Jan. 17 United Methodists from the Greater New Orleans and South Louisiana area joined with people of many different faiths to ask the question: "What can faith communities do in the face of a welfare reform policy that could impact negatively at least 98,000 children currently on the Louisiana welfare rolls?"

The ecumenical group of 148 from communities all over South Louisiana from Baton Rouge, to Jefferson Parish to New Orleans gathered at Xavier University in New Orleans to celebrate, sing, worship and develop plans to impact welfare reform policy and its affect on children in Louisiana.

Peter Edelman (pictured above), keynote speaker for the event, was formerly assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. When President Clinton signed the national welfare reform bill last year, Edelman resigned his position. He is currently a law professor at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

"Under the old law, when families were in need, they would go to an office and federal law said they had to be helped. That has all been wiped away. Now, states can do essentially whatever they want," Edelman said. And yet, Edelman also reiterated that welfare reform should not be the issue. Instead, he said, "we should be talking about ending poverty."

Judy Watts, an active Louisiana United Methodist and executive director

of Agenda for Children, a statewide children's advocacy group, also addressed the group. "Now that children and families are at greater risk, we as faith communities should voice our concerns toward the direction of more quality child care which is conveniently available, the creation of jobs for entry level employment at a liveable wage, and the creation of job readiness programs that prepare those who have not worked for employment," she said,

adding that the state has about \$24 million available in federal funds to help those in need. "We must advocate that this money be spent on such initiatives."

The interfaith committee who helped plan the event has made a commitment to continue their work in supporting faith communities as they advocate and as they work one-on-one and in other ways to help those families and children affected by the welfare reform

This support was begun when participants brought children's books as an offering during worship. The books will be used in homes where low-income and welfare families take their children for child care.

"Children in poverty will benefit from this day in many ways," said Rev. Jeff Conner, pastor, Carrollton-Napoleon Avenue UMCs in New Orleans, who helped organize the event. "We expect other solutions to this important issue to be revealed as a result of this day and the continued efforts of our planning committee."

## Parsons Golfing Around invites Louisiana clergy to putt off

by Dr. Peter Harrington

Pastor, St. Matthew's UMC, Metairie

The Annual Louisiana Clergy Open is scheduled for Monday, May 4 at the Rapides Golf and Country Club just north of Alexandria. All pastors in the Conference are invited to participate. Since the focus of our gathering is not only to enjoy golf, but even more

so to enjoy one another, plan to attend, no matter the shape of your game.

The cost for the event is \$40 per golfer, which includes cart, greens fee, awards and an evening meal at the Conference Center.

We will have our annual putting contest at 12 noon and a course-wide shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. sharp. Anyone arriving after that time will not be allowed to play in the

tournament.

The evening meal and awards presentation will be held at the Conference Center, probably between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. Spouses or guests of any golfer who choose to dine with us at the Conference Center may do so for \$6.

Rapides Golf Club is located just north of Alexandria very close to I-49. Coming from either direction on the Interstate, exit at "Air Base Road" (La. 498). In about 100 yds. you will cross a railroad track at the junction of US Hwy. 1. Drive north on US 1 for a mile until you reach the Rapides Golf Club.

Our registrar this year is Rev. Jack Phelps. You may send your registration and payments to him at: 23645 Church Street, Plaquemine, LA 70764. Make checks payable to "PGA" (Parsons Golfing Around).

Come join us on a beautiful day in May for an afternoon and evening of fellowship (and fun) on the links.



### ACADIANA DISTRICT

**District Superintendent**  
Rev. Terry Willis  
**District Missioner**  
Mrs. Linda Boswell  
**Lay Leader**  
Mrs. Jane Blackwell  
**Trustees**  
Mr. Charles Ross

**CFA**  
Mr. Charles Granstaff  
**Bd. of Church Bldg/Location/Ext.**  
Mr. Bob Sides  
**Education Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Mrs. Evelyn Deich

**Renewal Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Rev. Wybra Price  
**Meditative Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Mrs. Nanci Youngblood  
**Outreach Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Mrs. Sarah Schoeffler

**Communication**  
**Advisor**  
Mrs. Judi Sarver  
**Youth Representative**  
Chinise Pickney  
**Youth Coordinator**  
Michael Cockrell  
**Values Team**  
**Representative**  
Rev. Clifton Conrad

### ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT

**District Superintendent**  
Rev. Don Avery  
**District Missioner**  
(To be filled)  
**Lay Leader**  
Mr. Ned Randolph  
**CFA**  
Mr. V. J. French

**Bd. of Church Bldg/Location/Ext.**  
Rev. James Graham  
**Education Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Mrs. Eloise Cox  
**Renewal Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Ms. Dianne Allen

**Meditative Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Rev. Doug Cain  
**Outreach Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Rev. Mark Bray  
**Communication**  
**Advisor**  
Mrs. Judy Morino

**Youth Representative**  
Miss Mary Wilbanks  
**Youth Coordinator**  
Rev. Pam Fitch  
**Values Team**  
**Representative**  
Rev. John Deschner

### BATON ROUGE DISTRICT

**District Superintendent**  
Rev. Leslie Norris  
**District Missioner**  
Ms. LaMarylis Cotton  
**Lay Leader**  
Mrs. Joyce Robinson  
**CFA**  
Rev. Don Hall

### Bd. of Church Building/Location/Ext.

Mr. Gordon Morris  
**Education Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Ms. Sue Catchings  
**Renewal Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Miss Dale Jones

**Meditative Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Rev. Debbie Drash  
**Outreach Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Ms. Myrtle Perkins  
**Communication**  
**Advisor**  
Mr. Randy Griffith

**Youth Representative**  
Mr. Josh Tremblay  
**Youth Coordinator**  
Ms. Faye Ross  
**Values Team**  
**Representative**  
Ms. Anica Doyle

### LAKE CHARLES DISTRICT

**District Superintendent**  
Rev. Larry Maddin  
**District Missioner**  
Ms. Jean Foreman  
**Lay Leader**  
Mr. David Qualls  
**CFA**  
Mr. Richard See

**Bd. of Church Bldg/Location/Ext.**  
Rev. Tommy Bergeron  
**Education Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Ms. Sherrie Balthrop  
**Renewal Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Mr. Don Smith

**Meditative Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Mr. Rickey Watson  
**Outreach Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Alice & "Rock"  
Rothrock  
**Communication**  
**Advisor**  
Ms. Constance Handy

**Youth Representative**  
Ms. Myka Hartwell  
**Youth Coordinator**  
Ms. Teresa Wright  
**Values Team**  
**Representative**  
Ms. Betty Carlin

### MONROE DISTRICT

**District Superintendent**  
Rev. Marie Williams  
**District Missioner**  
(To be filled)  
**Lay Leader**  
Mr. Harold LaGrone  
**Trustees**  
Rev. Mark Strickland

**CFA**  
Rev. Bill Willis  
**Bd. of Church Bldg/Location/Ext.**  
Rev. Larry Stafford  
**Education Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Mrs. Hariette Elrod  
**Renewal Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Mrs. Jean Elliott

## Meet the District Ministry Teams

### Meditative Ministries

**Leader**  
Mrs. Shirley M. Wall  
**Outreach Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Mr. Denny Garner  
**Communication**  
**Advisor**  
Ms. Betty Martin

**Youth Representative**  
Ms. Ginny Willis  
**Youth Coordinators**  
Ms. Doret Gilbert-Wilson  
Ms. Ellen Bowen  
**Values Team**  
**Representative**  
Mrs. Jo Traweck

### NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT

**District Superintendent**  
Dr. Carole Cotton-Winn  
**District Missioner**  
(To be filled)  
**Lay Leader**  
Ms. Germain Peters  
**CFA**  
Ms. Stephenae Carey

**Bd. of Church Building/Location/Ext.**  
Mrs. Amy Ward  
**Education Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Mr. Carol Sherer  
**Renewal Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Rev. Arnold Roberts

**Meditative Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Rev. Darryl Tate  
**Outreach Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Rev. Joe Connelly  
**Communication**  
**Advisor**  
Ms. Dian Kent

**Youth Representative**  
Mr. Jonathan Hammett  
**Youth Coordinator**  
Ms. Dolores Giles  
**Values Team**  
**Representative**  
Mr. Russel Jones

**NORTH SHORE DISTRICT**  
**District Superintendent**  
Rev. Carl Rhoads  
**District Missioner**  
(To be filled)  
**Lay Leader**  
Ms. Eva Underwood

**CFA**  
Mrs. Vera Packer  
**Bd. of Church Building/Location/Ext.**  
Mr. Tom Knight  
**Education Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Mrs. Carolyn B. Foster

**Renewal Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Mr. Dickie Davis  
**Meditative Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Ms. Nancy Hill  
**Outreach Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Mr. Arthur Woodside

**Communication**  
**Advisor**  
Rev. Wanda S. Cosentino  
**Youth Representative**  
Mr. Gurnez Nichols

### Youth Coordinator

Rev. Tom Dolph  
**Values Team**  
**Representative**  
Mr. Willie Gross  
**At Large**  
Major Lee Chappell  
Ms. Ella Mae Doyle

### RUSTON DISTRICT

**District Superintendent**  
Rev. Jimmie Pyles  
**District Missioner**  
(To be named)  
**Lay Leader**  
(To be named)  
**CFA**  
(To be named)

**Board of Church Bldg/Location/Ext.**  
(To be named)  
**Education Ministries**  
**Leader**  
(To be named)  
**Renewal Ministries**  
**Leader**  
(To be named)

**Meditative Ministries**  
**Leader**  
(To be named)  
**Outreach Ministries**  
**Leader**  
(To be named)  
**Communication**  
**Advisor**  
(To be named)

**Youth Representative**  
(To be named)  
**Youth Coordinator**  
(To be named)  
**Values Team**  
**Representative**  
Rev. David Dietzel

### SHREVEPORT DISTRICT

**District Superintendent**  
Dr. Bobby Potter  
**District Missioner**  
Mrs. Betsy Eaves  
**Lay Leader**  
Mr. Ray Owens  
**CFA**  
Rev. William Peeples

**Bd. of Church Building/Location/Ext.**  
Rev. Greg Davis  
**Education Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Miss Elizabeth Means  
**Renewal Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Mr. Tom Dixon

**Meditative Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Rev. Steve Kelly  
**Outreach Ministries**  
**Leader**  
Mr. Vernon Rich  
**Communication**  
**Advisor**  
Rev. Dale Hensarling

**Youth**  
**Representatives**  
Miss Emily Phifer  
Miss Megan King  
**Youth Coordinator**  
Mrs. Gina S. Jenkins  
**Values Team**  
**Representative**  
Mr. Arthur J. (A.J.) Williams, Jr.

**At Large**  
Mrs. Nell Inman and  
Mrs. Lueburda Myers

July 30 - August 2  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Jackson, Mississippi



Sponsored by General Board of  
Global Ministries and United  
Methodist Single Adult Leaders  
Call (615) 340-7176 for details.



# AROUND THE CONFERENCE

## NEWS

### First UMC Natchitoches members train for Stephen Ministry



Members of First United Methodist Church, Natchitoches, (pictured above) attended a Stephen Ministry Training Retreat Jan. 9-10 at the Conference Center. Trainers were Alexa Boyette (far right) and Norma Hart (kneeling center).

Other members of the group have made a two-year commitment to train for this one-on-one nationally recognized caring ministry within the local church. Each Stephen Minister is paired with a member of the congregation recommended by the pastor who needs care and has agreed to enter such a relationship.

#### REMINDER

Remember to pray for the child on your "Adopt a Child in Prayer" card distributed at Annual Conference and the Special Session.

Louisiana Conference Edition  
of the  
United Methodist Review  
Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

#### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Leslie N. Akin, Director,  
Gospel Communications  
Bobbie Armstrong, Editor  
Dr. Alonzo J. Campbell, Liz Lucas

Subscriptions \$12.50 per year  
Send subscriptions, news and  
information to:  
Editor  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
1(888) 239-5286  
(504)346-1646, (504)383-2652 fax  
e-mail: laumc@premier.net

#### On the Web

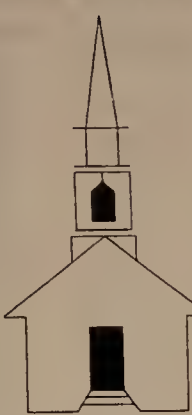
The Louisiana Annual Conference has a newly revised homepage. You can find us at  
<http://www.gbmg-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>.

#### DEADLINE FOR:

March 6 Issue--February 23  
March 20 Issue--March 9

## 25 Churches with largest numbers of new members

|                        |     |                          |    |
|------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|
| Grace, Shreveport      | 282 | First, Gonzales          | 75 |
| St. Timothy on N.S.    | 254 | First, Monroe            | 73 |
| Broadmoor, Baton Rouge | 230 | First, DeRidder          | 72 |
| First, Baton Rouge     | 148 | Fellowship, Bossier City | 71 |
| Broadmoor, Shreveport  | 145 | St. Andrews, Baton Rouge | 69 |
| Asbury, Bossier City   | 141 | First, Slidell           | 68 |
| Asbury, Lafayette      | 139 | First, Alexandria        | 66 |
| Aldersgate, Slidell    | 132 | St. Luke-Simpson         | 66 |
| First, Shreveport      | 104 | Carpenter's Chapel       | 65 |
| Lea Joyner, Monroe     | 87  | Trinity, Ruston          | 64 |
| Jefferson, Baton Rouge | 86  | First, Houma             | 62 |
| Denham Springs         | 82  | First, Lafayette         | 61 |
| Munholland, Metairie   | 78  |                          |    |



### Christmas cantata performed by combined Many choir

"Behold This Child," a worship musical for the Christmas season, was presented by a talented combined choir during the holy season.

Directed by Carole Troha of First UMC, Many, the choir featured 58 singers with two instrumentalists, Debra Warren on flute and Chase Sepulvado on saxophone, and accompanist, Patsy McCormick.

Beginning in early November, the choir worked on musical selections which heralded the Savior's birth. From the opening selection of "For Unto You" to the

uplifting finale of "Behold This Child," the choir traced the birth of Jesus through song.

Narration of scriptures which told the beloved story were recited by Rev. Hulen Warren, pastor of Many's First UMC, and Randy Martin.

The first performance, hosted at St. John's Catholic Church Thursday, Dec. 11, was well attended. The choir also performed at First UMC, Many and other area churches. The performance was broadcast on the local television station.

### Rayne UMC celebrates 123rd anniversary with library dedication

On Sunday, January 18, Rayne Memorial UMC in New Orleans celebrated its 123rd anniversary with the dedication of the Franklin Nutting Parker Library.

For the past six months, the church has been involved in renovating their Westerfield Building. The Rayne Early Childhood Program expanded several years ago and the room which had been the church library was taken over in the expansion. The new library was part of the renovation plan.

Serving this conference for 66 years, Dr. Franklin N. Parker was a former pastor of Rayne as well as other churches in the Louisiana Conference. He was a guiding light

in the unification of the three Methodist churches in 1937. He was Dean of the Candler School of Theology at Emory University for 18 years and prior to that had been professor of Biblical literature at Trinity College (now Duke University).

Dr. Parker's great grand-nephew, John Parker Schneidau, presented the church with a plaque for the library as well as pictures of Dr. Parker. Dr. Parker's descendants are sixth generation members of Rayne.

Rev. George Duerson, senior pastor of Rayne Memorial UMC, officiated at the ceremony and accepted the gifts for the church.

### Louisiana Conference VIM opportunities

**Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, El Reno, Okla., April 20-24**  
Led by Rev. Robert Ross  
\$175 per person. Registration deadline, March 1.  
Call (504) 356-4459 or 926-5745

**Louisiana Cottage Renovation at Mt. Sequoyah SCJ Conference and Retreat Center, Fayetteville, Ark.**  
Three phases: March 1-7, 8-14, 14-21  
Call Sam Burch, Work Camp director at (318) 439-8630

## Conference Program Calendar

### February

25 Ash Wednesday

### March

- 2 UM Foundation Bishop's Society Banquet, Shreveport
- 3 UM Foundation Bishop's Society Banquet, Conference Center
- 4 UM Foundation Bishop's Society Banquet, New Orleans
- 5 UM Foundation Bishop's Society Banquet, Baton Rouge
- 7 Shalom Zone, Monroe District
- 9-12 Cabinet Meeting
- 10-11 Town and Country 10th Annual Spring Retreat, Conference Center
- 23-24 Gathering of Elders, Conference Center, Noon-Noon
- 26-29 Cursillo #63, Conference Center
- 30-Apr 2 Cabinet Meeting

### April

- 2 UM Foundation Annual Meeting

of the Board of Trustees, Baton Rouge

4 Confirmation Day with the Bishop, Conference Center

12 Easter Sunday

14-16 Cabinet Meeting

16-18 Convocation on Urban Ministry, Dallas, TX

18 Conference Center Meeting

19-24 VIM Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, Church Construction

20-24 VIM Rio Bravo, Mexico, Medical Clinic Construction

24-25 UMM Torchbearer Retreat with Bishop Solomon, Conference Center

25 Shalom Zone Training, Monroe District

25-5/1 Council of Bishops

27-29 Spring Interviews for Local Pastors

30-5/2 Cursillo #64, Conference Center

30-5/3 VIM Nuevo Progreso, Mexico, Medical Construction

### Let's connect . . .

Send us your news (typed copy--not all caps--please, with a contact name and number) and photos (color okay) to:

Bobbie Armstrong  
Editor  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

### NOTEWORTHY . . .

**Rev. Bentley Sloane**, retired from the Conference and Centenary College, will be saluted in a special Sunday afternoon gathering at First United Methodist Church of Shreveport, March 1 at 3 p.m. Anyone wishing to contribute a personal anecdote or memory, or participate in any fashion, is invited to contact David Melville, event coordinator, at (318) 424-7771.

The **Dr. Rex Squyres Town and Country Retreat for Clergy and Laity Evangelism Training** will be held March 10-11 at the Conference Center. The retreat begins at 1:30 on Tuesday, March 10. One CEU credit will be awarded. Registration will be limited to the first 60. The theme is: "Offering Them Christ Today..." Rev. Jim W. Hollis, North Georgia Conference award-winning evangelist, will lead the retreat. Cost for the event is \$45. Call Rev. Darryl Tate at (504) 469-4796 to register.

The **Baton Rouge District United Methodist Women** will host a retreat Saturday, March 28 at St. Mark UMC in Baton Rouge. The theme for this day of spiritual enrichment will be "The Rock That Bore You." Call (504) 357-6150 for details.

Broadmoor UMC in Shreveport will host a series of **Soup and Salad Lenten Lunches** every Wednesday at noon from March 4-April 1. Every luncheon will offer a different speaker and topic. Speakers include Dr. Bobby Potter, Shreveport District Superintendent; Dr. David Otto of Centenary College; UM pastors Revs. Steve Kelly and Brian Barron; and Jim Wood. Call Merrilee Carter at (318) 861-4310 for details.

There also will be a Lenten Prayer Vigil at the church on Friday, March 6 from 12 noon-midnight.

Dillard University in New Orleans is celebrating its **Spring Semester Lyceum Season** with a theater production of "Having Our Say" on March 4. A film series titled "African Women In and On Film" with Cheryl Chisolm will be held March 6-7. On March 13 there will be a "Symposium on African-American Intellectual Life" and a dance concert titled "Dance Journey To The Crucifixion" by Lula Elzy will be held April 7.

Contact Cesily G. Roberts at (504) 2860-4711 for details.

**CONFERENCE OFFICE**  
**TOLL-FREE NUMBER:**  
**1.888.239.5286**





# CONFERENCE *edition*

Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
504.346.1646  
/504.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

018000

Send P.O. Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

Vol 15 No 7 ■ March 6, 1998

## Campus Ministry Summit asks hard questions Where are we? Where do we need to go to make disciples?

by Betsy Eaves

Shreveport / Bossier City Campus Ministry

With a multitude of expectations, hopes and anxieties, 35 people gathered at the Conference Center in Woodworth Feb. 13-14 to ask hard questions about campus ministry in Louisiana: where are we and where do we need to go to be about the business of making disciples for Jesus Christ on our campuses?



Rev. Gene Finnell (right), pastor, First UMC, Covington, leads the closing communion service.

Photos for this story by Jimmie D. Pyles.

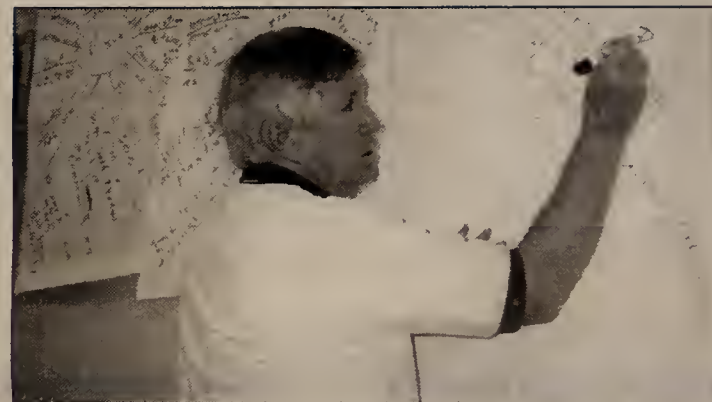
Attending this first ever Campus Ministry Summit were representatives--board members or and/or

campus ministers--from each campus ministry supported by the Louisiana Annual Conference as well as mission cabinet members, two student representatives and Bishop Dan Solomon.

A strong belief in the ministry to our college campuses and a deep hope for its increasing effectiveness were reflected in words shared by Bishop Solomon. Bill McMahan, a member of Jubilee UMC in Baton Rouge, led us through a process of identifying where we are and where we want to go.

We sang together, prayed together, struggled with our difficult questions and envisioned together. Together we sought God's leading. While all questions concerning campus ministry in Louisiana could not be answered in this one summit, we did identify our current reality, our values and our goals and a specific process that would enable us to live into our vision.

A tangible result of the summit was the creation of a campus ministry task force which will develop the plan for two cooperative bodies which will direct campus ministries. One will be an administrative body which will focus on conference funding issues and equipping the District Ministry Teams for evaluation and accountability roles. The other will be a conference campus ministry team, modeled after the conference youth ministry team, which will deal with spiritual life issues of campus ministries.



Bill McMahan leads the group gathered for the Campus Ministry Summit through a brainstorming session.

Our time together was full--full of opinions, questions and ideas. It was also full of hope and anticipation that the Spirit of God is upon this ministry and that we will bring God's vision of campus ministry in Louisiana to reality.

"The commitment of the Louisiana Conference to campus ministry, both in leadership and funding, is outstanding," said Bishop Solomon. "Now, we must undertake to ensure that campus ministry connects increasing numbers of persons with life in Christ and then helps them mature in discipleship."

## Torchbearers coming in April Retreat to focus on men, Jesus in the home

We repeatedly hear and talk about the importance of the man in the home. In April, the Louisiana Conference United Methodist Men will sponsor Torchbearers: Men Declaring the Centrality of Jesus in the Home, a retreat for men that will focus on this issue.

"The purpose of Torchbearers," says Jay Hinckley, president of the UMM of the Louisiana Conference, "is to offer UM men in Louisiana the opportunity to come together and learn how to experience spiritual growth in this area of their lives. Hopefully, every man attending Torchbearers will carry what he learns here back to his home and his individual church."

Torchbearers will be held at the Conference Center in Woodworth Friday



and Saturday, April 24-25. Bishop Dan Solomon will lead the session Friday night. Saturday morning he will conduct a workshop entitled Faith Home, that kicks off a nine-week experience in which families learn how to talk to one another about God and faith by actually practicing doing so together.

Other sessions will include small group discussions, witnesses from men on the impact of fathers present or absent in their lives and a closing session to be led by Dr. Chris Andrews, senior pastor, First UMC, Baton Rouge.

Registration

will be held from 1-5 p.m. on Friday with an opportunity to make new friends or greet old ones and share about men's ministry in your church.

Early registration is essential. The cost is \$20. Please make overnight and meal arrangements with the Conference Center at (318) 449-4500. Ask for the special Torchbearers package.

Make your check payable to UM Men--Torchbearers and mail to Jay Hinckley at 7458 Hwy. 126, Dodson, LA 71422. Call Jay at (318) 628-3763 for more information.

### On the inside

- 2 Where do pastors come from?
- 3 Criminal justice task force meets
- 3 SCJ convocation in Dallas
- 4 LRI holds seminars in Russia
- 4 Conference Calendar



The Louisiana-Rio Grande connection  
Page 2





## Being and Doing

### Where do pastors come from?



In a few days, the District Superintendents and I

will be diligently at work to make appointments of pastors to our churches. We will gather in a retreat to worship, to pray and to address the leadership needs of our congregations.

There are 375 pastoral charges in the Louisiana Conference. A few of these charges will receive new pastors at the Annual Conference of 1998. Some of these charges will send into retirement beloved pastors who have served faithfully for many years. Others of these charges will celebrate at Annual Conference the ordination of one or more persons who began their journey toward ordination within the life of that specific charge. For every clergy retiring and for every clergy ordained it can be said, "These persons were laity before they were ordained, or became pastors."

Please note that I am very specific to use terms such as "pastor" or "ordained" rather than "minister." The term "minister" belongs equally and fully to every baptized follower of Jesus. All of us are "in the ministry." However, not all of us are pastors, or permanent deacons or diaconal ministers. We all were once laity, though now our journeys may move us into other expressions of ministry.

Where do pastors come from? The answer is clear—from the ranks of laity. That means that all of us have a stake in raising up persons for leadership ministries within the life of the church.

Future pastoral leaders sit in our Sunday School classes, participate in our youth groups, share in our Disciple Bible Study sessions and serve on our Volunteer In Mission teams. Most of the time such persons are not even aware of their leadership potential. Occasionally someone will speak to a youth or young adult the startling words, "You ought to be a preacher." On other occasions, the power of God's presence in worship, or in a time of self-denying service, or amidst a task of ministry performed with deep fulfillment, awakens a "wondering" that eventually leads to a "willing" and the next step toward pastoral ministry is

undertaken.

If pastors and deacons and diaconals come from the life of the laity—and they do—then how we view such a "preacher producing" environment is of vital importance.

My early life was greatly blessed by a family that deeply loved the church and consistently respected and affirmed our pastor. Even as a child I was quite sure that my parents didn't always agree with the pastor, but they always treated the pastor with respect and appreciation. I was genuinely pained when one of my college classmates said, "I was thinking about becoming a pastor until I saw the way my church had a fight over remodeling the sanctuary. I knew right then I didn't want to get caught in a mess like that."

Can one help but wonder how many persons have resisted, not only the promptings of God to be pastors, but even to be Christians because they've been subjected to the church's "mess" of raw power plays, its unwelcoming posture toward persons who do not look and think like the majority of the congregation, threats to withhold financial support unless a person or a group gets their way, and even threats and actions of litigation, splinter group exodus, or constant harassment of people and pastors within the congregation?

Happily, there are multitudes of congregations and pastors whose joyful life in Christ, mutual encouragement in ministry, and confidence about the mission and relevance of God's Word for today creates a climate that is positive and conducive to "producing preachers." Pastors who come from such an environment, as they mature in their skills and faith, will always carry within them a "foretaste" of the Kingdom of God experienced among laity who demonstrated that transforming the world, not conforming to its "messy" style and substance, was their ministry.

*Dan E. Solomon*

Dan E. Solomon

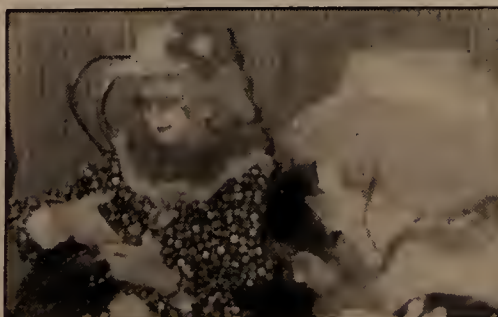


## Spotlight on Children: Just for kids

Inspired by Bishop Dan Solomon's charge at the Special Session last October, Sally Martin, a school teacher and member of Vivian UMC, returned to her church asking in prayer for guidance.

Her answer soon appeared and she calls it Just for Kids. An afternoon program for all kids in the community, Just for Kids invites older adults

(especially men) to join in and become mentors to the children who come to the church every Thursday for help with homework and to participate in fun activities. Both benefit from the relationship,



## PARTNERS IN MISSION

### The Louisiana-Rio Grande Connection

by Rev. Mark Strickland

Pastor, St. Mark's UMC, Monroe

"Experience is the best teacher." I have found that old adage to be especially true in my experience with the Rio Grande Conference.

Orientation to become a mission interpreter was the purpose of my trip last year to San Antonio. I came back to Louisiana, however, with more than information. I returned with some genuine inspiration. I have a vision of a "Louisiana - Rio Grande Connection" - a cooperative partnership in mission to Hispanic persons.

Rio Grande has some urgent needs. Funding from the General Board of Global Ministries is being reduced annually until the year 2000. Then the conference will receive only what comes in through the Advance. The Rio Grande Conference, therefore, has undertaken an urgent Parish Partners Program through the Advance to replace the funding which is being discontinued.

Two thirds of the conference's churches are on Mission Aid. There will be a critical need to support pastors' salaries which are already disturbingly low. In 1997, the minimum salary was \$15,256 for local pastors, \$16,008 for associate members, and \$16,670 for members in full connection. As Rio Grande journeys through a time of transition toward self-support, the conference will need the help of sisters and brothers in the Louisiana Conference.

Urgent financial needs, however, are only one aspect of the Rio Grande story. The most significant fact about this conference is its strategic place in our church's mission to a growing Hispanic population. Between 1980 and 1990 persons of Hispanic origin in the United

States increased from 14.6 to 22.4 million. The 2000 Census will undoubtedly show another substantial increase.

The Rio Grande Conference is the only foreign-language conference in The United Methodist Church. Its Spanish-speaking churches and ministries fill a unique and indispensable role in reaching Hispanic persons for Christ. Because Rio Grande is an Annual Conference, it can serve as a base for all Hispanic ministries in The United Methodist Church. The Advance Parish

Partners Program as well as Volunteers in Mission projects offer Louisiana United Methodists outstanding opportunities to be involved in reaching Hispanic persons for Christ, particularly in Texas and New Mexico.

What has impressed me most about Rio Grande is the spirit and sacrifice of the faithful servants of Christ who serve in that conference. One

San Antonio pastor left a significant position with the city of Houston before entering the ministry. Javier Leyva lived and served voluntarily in a *colonia* of the poor before becoming a local pastor. He will be preaching in my church March 29.

Other Rio Grande brothers and sisters will be speaking in churches of the Monroe and Ruston Districts during a Missions Awareness Weekend, March 28-29. Hopefully, this weekend will mark the beginning of the "Louisiana - Rio Grande Connection." To schedule such a weekend or to receive information on giving through the Advance Parish Partners Program, call me at (318) 343-0925.

I believe the "Louisiana-Rio Grande Connection" can produce a spiritual harvest for both conferences; it can be an enduring partnership of mutual support in carrying out the Great Commission.



Javier Leyva

### Missions Awareness Week The Louisiana-Rio Grande Connection March 28-29

The Monroe and Ruston Districts  
Saturday: Youth Missions Gathering  
St. Mark's UMC 7-8:30 p.m.

Sunday: Clergy/laity from the Rio Grande Conference speak at churches in the Monroe and Ruston Districts.

Please call St. Mark's (318) 343-0925 by March 23 to register.

Sally says.

Just for Kids was kicked off with a big celebration which included Gospel Clown

the Clown (pictured left) who made balloon hats for the kids.

Rev. Bob Townsend, pastor at Vivian UMC, supports Just for Kids and looks forward to everyone in the north Louisiana community getting in on the fun and fellowship.

Photo and story from the Caddo Citizen, Vivian, La.





## Criminal justice task force meets

by Rev. John R. Johns

Pastor, Nolley Memorial UMC, Jena

On January 17, a task force met at the Conference Center to look at the Louisiana Conference's needs in the area of criminal justice, what we are doing and possibilities for action we can take.

The group, led by Rev. John Johns, pastor, Nolley Memorial UMC, Jena, was made up of those who have worked with KAIROS, Epiphany, Prison Fellowship Ministries and those who just have a deep concern for the challenge we face in serving these "least of the brethren." Also present were chaplains from two state prisons.

The group first agreed that our need to be involved in prison ministry is based on biblical as well as Wesleyan heritage mandates.

The scope of criminal justice ministry is very wide, however, and we are barely scratching the surface. It involves working with those who are incarcerated and their families, especially providing aftercare when they are released and go back into society. It also involves ministering to the victims of their crimes.

Both chaplains present stressed the importance of education (equipping them with skills that can be used when they are released), mentoring and aftercare, including help with employment.

As an outgrowth of this meeting, the

following are some of the goals to work toward:

(1) Attain a strong support statement from the Bishop and cabinet for criminal justice and mercy ministries.

(2) Develop a camp for children of incarcerated persons.

(3) Use United Methodist Chaplain Bertrand Griffin as a resource person.

(4) Develop an aftercare program.

(5) Bring KAIROS Outside into the Conference. This is a week-end experience similar to KAIROS for wives and mothers of prisoners.

(6) Encourage members of local congregations located near prisons to get to know the chaplain and find ways they can be of service.

(7) Prepare a resource packet for use by District Missioners and meet with them and the Conference Missioner for a training session.

The following resolution was adopted by the group: "Be it resolved that each district missioner shall offer models of ministry to local congregations on behalf of prisoners and their families, parolees and victims of crime."

Rena Yocom, conference mission resourcing consultant, indicated such a meeting would take place after the district missioners are chosen. "It will be good to know these models for prison ministry and to share them with congregations as appropriate," she said.

## A Word to Witness

### The Gift of Presence

by Dr. Douglas Ezell

The Methodist Home for Children  
New Orleans

How can you begin to give the gift of presence to your family? One step at a time.

The following suggestions will help you get started:

1. When you come home, give yourself thirty minutes, if possible, to unwind and change gears before you enter the family dynamics. (Maybe you can do this in the car on the way home or maybe each parent can give the other thirty minutes of alone time before everyone comes together).

2. When you enter the family, give each child thirty minutes of your undivided attention. Children want to know that you are present and interested. At the end of that time, they will have had enough of you and will go off to play on their own. (However, if you come in, listen with one ear, watch TV or read the paper with both eyes and just say, "uh huh" a lot, they will pester you all night to try to get you to really notice them).

3. Plan family time and possibly a family council meeting each week. Family time is time when everybody plays or talks and listens together. Family Council is when everyone gets to put their two cents worth in, knowing it will be heard and considered, even if not acted on every time.

4. Have a "date" with each child at least once a month. Mom and Dad can each do this.

5. Praise your children for who they are - their humor, their smile, their ability to

think, their insights, their gifts and talents. You cannot bless a child's **being** too much.

6. Correct their **doing**, don't attack their person.

7. Let siblings work out their differences whenever possible. They don't need to get you in the middle; they are better arbitrators than we give them credit for sometimes.

8. Love your spouse. Stand together. Discuss your differences in a private space away from the children. Then come out as a united front. Don't let the children split you up.

9. Take some time for yourself. You cannot give all the time and not run out of juice. Batteries run down and you will, too.

10. Take time to be a couple, if you are not a single parent. Make some memories together. One day, the children will be gone. Don't live through them.

11. **Be present. Be present.** Be present as much as possible. Children just need to know you are there and that they can get to you when they really need you.

12. Sometimes when the culture is cheering us all on to our death beds (both culturally and individually) we just have to listen to the still, small voice of God inside us. Get still and listen. I bet God will let you know a lot better how to do this parenting thing than the world would lead you to believe. But remember: To hear God will take the same thing it takes to be present-**presence!** Be present please, Mom and Dad. And God says "Be present please, children; I want to enjoy my children, too."

### Did you know?

Did you know that The Methodist Home for Children has a Speaker's Bureau? Qualified members of our staff are available to speak to your church, professional or civic organization on a variety of subjects including: Building Communication in Relationships, Strengthening Your Marriage, Effective Parenting, Creative Discipline, Dealing



With Addictions in Families, Encouraging Spiritual Development in Children or Coping With Stress.

These are just a few of the topics our speakers can address. For more information about The Methodist Home Speakers' Bureau, call Dr. Doug Ezell at (504) 895-7709.

Reprinted from "News from Home."

### Perkins SCJ urban convocation to explore 'Hope for the City'

April 16-18, Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas will sponsor a Convocation on Urban Ministry entitled Hope for the City: Developing New Leadership for an Urbanizing Society.

The purpose is to bring together leaders in the South Central Jurisdiction to explore how to best prepare leaders for an urbanizing society.

Bishop William Oden, former bishop of the

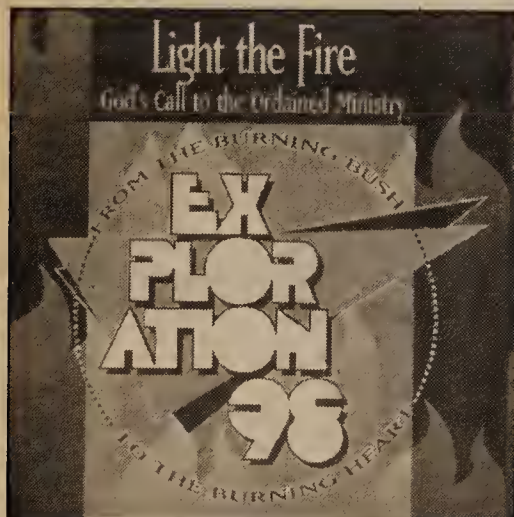


Louisiana Conference, will be one of the plenary leaders and Dr. Carole Cotton-Winn, district superintendent of the New Orleans District, will be the speaker for the banquet on April 17. Keynote speaker is Dr. John Perkins, author and founder of Voice of Calvary Ministries in Jackson, Miss. and other

ministries. Dr. Alonzo Campbell, Louisiana Conference coordinator for special ministries, is part of the jurisdictional planning team for this event.

The cost is \$75 (includes four meals) before March 14; after March 15, the cost goes to \$90. Accommodations can be made at The Dallas Grand Hotel for \$69 per night.

Call Dr. Henry L. Masters, Sr. at (214) 922-0000 to register.



A National Gathering for Youth and  
Youth Adults Considering Ordained  
Ministry in The United Methodist  
Church

November 13-15, 1998  
Airport Hilton and Towers  
Los Angeles, California

Contact:

Rev. KilSang Yoon (615) 340-7397  
Rev. Richard Stewart (615) 340-7366

## ◆◆◆ You should know ◆◆◆

United Methodist Communications is taking applications for its first **Racial Ethnic Minority Fellowship**.

The full-time, salaried fellowship will be given to a recent ethnic minority college or seminary graduate for a one-year period beginning July 1. The applicant should be interested in annual conference communications as a possible career goal.

The deadline for applications is March 30.

For more details, contact REM Fellowship Committee, United Methodist Communications Conference Resourcing Team at United Methodist Communications, P.O. Box 320, Nashville, TN 37202-0320, or call 1-888-CRT-4UMC.

◆◆◆ An **Earth Day kit for local congregations** is available from the National Council of Churches.

The kit, already mailed to 73,000 congregations, includes two church bulletin inserts, a list of resource materials

and a two-session adult study. Earth Day is April 22.

◆◆◆

It all starts online. The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries offers **free World Wide Web space** to local churches, districts, annual conferences, jurisdictions or any official body related to the General Conference. Space also is available to the various units and levels of United Methodist Women.

Participants must complete an online application form, which can be accessed through the board's Web site (<http://www.gbmg-umc.org>).

Listings of churches, conferences and other groups already online can be accessed through that site as well. Another helpful site is Religion Mega-site (<http://www.aphids.com/megasite>), which offers information on creating a church home page, finding religious resources on the Internet and accessing a religion icon and image archive.



# AROUND THE CONFERENCE NEWS

## Let's connect . . .

Send us your news (typed copy--not all caps--please, with a contact name and number) and photos (color okay) to:

Bobbie Armstrong  
Editor  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

## In Memoriam

our prayers and condolences go to: the family of Mrs. Virginia Hare Irving, surviving spouse of Rev. William R. Irving, Jr. (Baton Rouge District), who died Feb. 23. Her funeral was held Feb. 26 at Ingleside UMC.

Rev. Dan C. Simon, retired (Lake Charles District), on the death of his wife, Clemme, Feb. 13. A memorial service was held Feb. 21 at First UMC, Jennings.

Rev. L. Darwin Brecheen, pastor, Slaughter-Bluff Creek (Baton Rouge District), and his wife Judy on the death of her mother, Mrs. Norma Terrel Price, Feb. 4. Her funeral was held Feb. 6 in Alexandria.

Rev. Ester L. Hammond, pastor, Varnado UMC (North Shore District), on the death of her step-mother, Mrs. Lela Garland Feb. 16. Rev. Hammond officiated at the funeral held Feb. 18 in Rayville.

## REMINDER

Remember to pray for the child on your "Adopt a Child in Prayer" card distributed at Annual Conference and the Special Session.

**Louisiana Conference Edition of the United Methodist Review**  
Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

**EDITORIAL TEAM:**  
Leslie N. Akin, Director,  
Gospel Communications  
Bobbie Armstrong, Editor  
Dr. Alonzo J. Campbell, Liz Lucas

Subscriptions \$12.50 per year  
Send subscriptions, news and information to:

Editor  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
1(888) 239-5286  
(504)346-1646, (504)383-2652 fax  
e-mail: laumc@premier.net

## On the Web

The Louisiana Annual Conference has a newly revised homepage. You can find us at  
<http://www.gbmg-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>

## DEADLINE FOR:

March 20 Issue--March 9  
April 3 Issue--March 23

## Louisiana Russian Initiative holds healing, forgiveness seminars in Ekaterinburg

The Russian Initiative of the Louisiana Conference sent James Gillespie (Broadmoor UMC, Shreveport), Rev. Carolyn Volentine, and Doyle Volentine (Logansport-Bethel UMCs) to Ekaterinburg, Russia January 16-21.

One of the purposes of the trip was to conduct three healing and forgiveness seminars for church members. Rev. Volentine led the seminars which were attended by 25 to 30 people. She also preached at the Sunday morning worship service where there were approximately 200 in attendance. The dedication and devotion of the Russian Methodists remains steadfast even with the constant adversity present.

Doyle Volentine (pictured above) spoke at the mens' prison. The response of the prisoners to his message was heart warming, to say the least.

The work on the new church facility is continuing. We found several workers at the construction site even though the



temperature was about 10 degrees.

This trip also allowed us the opportunity to meet Rev. Elena Chudinova, the new associate pastor at the First UMC in Ekaterinburg. She will certainly be of assistance to Rev. Olga Kotsuba.

The Louisiana Russian Initiative is paying her salary of \$280 per month for the next four months. We are looking for a church or Sunday School group to assume this role. If you are interested, please contact James Gillespie at (318) 865-3576.

## Wesley Foundation board meets at Southern



The Wesley Foundation Board of Directors (pictured above) for Southern

University in Baton Rouge recently held the first of its four meetings this year on the campus.

Under the leadership of Chair Hallique Dawson (center), a member of Canphor Memorial UMC in Baton Rouge and candidate for Diaconal Ministry, and Director Rev. George Calvin (top left), the board plans to make this a banner year for the Foundation and Southern's UM students.

The 25-member board added four new members this year.

## Parish Paper available



Please send name and address to Bobbie Armstrong 527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 if you want to be on the distribution list for the *Parish Paper*.

Indicate if you want Parish Paper letterhead or not.

Copies are free.

**Mark your calendar !  
Annual  
Conference  
Dates:  
June 8-11**

## Conference Program Calendar

### March

- 7 Shalom Zone, Monroe District
- 9-12 Cabinet Meeting
- 10-11 Town and Country 10th Annual Spring Retreat, Conference Center
- 12-13 LACEF Spring Retreat: "A River in the Desert," Conference Center
- 17 Dancing on the Web Satellite Teleconference, First UMC, Lake Charles 12:30-2 p.m.
- 21 UMW Finance Committee
- 23-24 Gathering of Elders, Conference Center, Noon-Noon
- 26-29 Cursillo #63, Conference Center

30-5/2 Cabinet Meeting

### April

- 2-4 VIM North Shore District, Sager-Brown
- 2 UM Foundation Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Baton Rouge
- 4 Confirmation Day with the Bishop, Conference Center
- 12 Easter Sunday
- 14-16 Cabinet Meeting
- 16-18 Convocation on Urban Ministry, Dallas, TX



## ...NOTEWORTHY...

The Lake Charles District will host **Dancing on the Web**, a live satellite teleconference, Tuesday, March 17 at First UMC, Lake Charles, from 12:30-2 p.m. This will be a practical, interactive workshop designed for beginning and intermediate Web users; it is being produced by the United Methodist Teleconference Connection. Admission is \$20/person. Call Richard See at (318) 436-6656 for details.

Louisiana United Methodist Aldersgate (LUMA) will be hosting its fourth annual **CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** Saturday, March 21 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Conference Center in Woodworth. The event, featuring musicians Rev. Byron and Heather Putnam, will be a time of praise, worship, prayer and witness. Lunch will be served and is included in the registration fee of \$15.

Contact Chris Roberts at (504) 654-7739 to register or Doyle Volentine (north Louisiana) at (318) 697-4386.

On April 4, **Holly Grove UMC** in Anacoco will celebrate its **163rd birthday** with an arts and crafts flea market beginning at 9 a.m., a bar-b-que lunch, bake sale, and singing. Booths at the flea market can be rented for \$5 and the chicken bar-b-que lunches will cost \$5. Singers from local churches will begin performances at 5:30 p.m.

Holly Grove is the oldest UM church west of the Mississippi River with a continuous pastor and Sunday school class. It is listed with the National Historical Society.

Contact Bill Doyle at (318) 239-9833 to reserve a booth or to purchase lunch tickets. All proceeds will go to mission work.

Need some time for spiritual renewal? The **Louisiana Christian Education Fellowship** will host a **Spring Spiritual Retreat: "A River in the Desert"** March 12-13 at the Conference Center.

Also, the LACEF Banquet will be held Tuesday, June 9 (during Annual Conference) at 5:30 p.m. at Centenary College Dining Hall.

Members are urged to pay their \$15 dues now and to begin thinking and praying about new officers to be nominated, elected and installed at the banquet.

Contact Sue Kamm, president, at Noel UMC, Shreveport, (318) 221-5207 for details.

The Saturday Religion section of **The Advocate** in Baton Rouge will begin **highlighting local and area churches** every week.

To be listed, send a photograph, church name, number of members, address, phone number and pastor's name to The Advocate, 525 Lafayette Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 Attention: Religion.

**CONFERENCE OFFICE TOLL-FREE NUMBER: 1.888.239.5286**





Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
504.346.1646  
/504.383.2652 fax

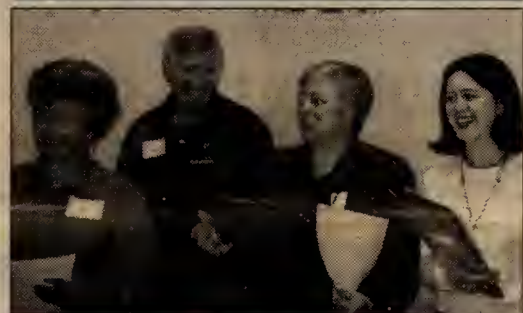
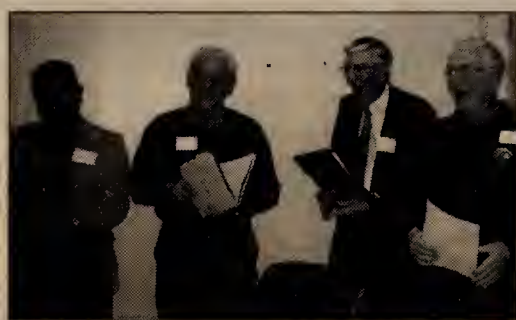
Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

018000

Send P.S. Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

Vol 15 No 7 ■ March 20, 1998

## Conference Ministry Team meets for first time



Attendees of the first CMT meeting (photos above) enjoy fellowship with one another.

Photos by Jimmie Pyles

It was an historical event for the Louisiana Conference. On Saturday, Feb. 28, the Conference Ministry Team, created as a result of the conference's reorganization approved at the 1997 Annual Conference, met for the first time at the Louisiana Conference Center in Woodworth.

The team includes the following members: the Mission Cabinet, which is made up of the Appointive Cabinet--Bishop Dan Solomon and the nine district superintendents--plus the executive director of administration services/treasurer (Dr. Stone Caraway); the area director of gospel communications (Rev. Leslie Akin); the UM Foundation director (Dr. Ken Reed); the director of mission resourcing (Dr. Rena Yocom--consulting); the special ministries coordinator (Dr. Alonzo Campbell); the youth coordinator (Carolyn Dove); the conference lay leader (O. Fred Loy, Jr.);

district lay leaders (Jane Balckwell, Ned Randolph, Joyce Robinson, David Qualls, Harold LaGrone, Germain Peters, Eva Underwood, Reggie Skains and Ray Owens); Board of Ordained Ministry representative (Bob Burgess); the chair of the Conference Quality Discernment Team (Bill McMahan); the Council on Finance and Administration representative (Don Cottrill); the youth representative (Lane Winn); the Conference Values Team representative (Betty Carlin); and the Conference Center program director (Harry Gardner).

The function of the CMT, according to *Design for a New Day*, "is to champion the vision of the Louisiana United Methodist Conference which is to be a community of local churches that make disciples for Christ. The CMT will identify one or more priorities for each quadrennium to lead the Conference to the vision. The role of the

CMT also is to serve as a catalyst in leading the Conference toward the achievement or fulfillment of its mission and to evaluate the degree to which the mission is being realized. In addition, the CMT is responsible for Conference functions assigned to it as a result of reorganization."

The meeting was led by Bishop Solomon. A tremendous level of energy and excitement permeated the room as participants bonded with each other and brainstormed about opportunities for mission in the Louisiana Conference.

"Our new structure allows for creativity and flexibility," says Bishop Solomon. "Now, we must utilize the new structure to produce the fruits of faithful mission! Any structure is only as good as the passion and will of those who seed to serve in and through it."

## Academy for Spiritual Leadership on the way

Delegates to Annual Conference 1997 approved recommendations made by both the Board of Ordained Ministry's and the Cabinet's Quality Discernment Teams to create an Academy for Spiritual Leadership to focus on both the development of spiritual leaders and church development.

The Academy Task Force has been meeting for the past seven months to give form to the Academy.

The Academy for Spiritual Leadership eventually will have various tracks. Track One will offer Spiritual Leadership for the 21st Century; Track Two will focus on Spiritual Direction. Track Three's emphasis will be Church Renewal and Transformation; Track Four will stress New Church Development and Track Five will be Developing Class Leaders.

**This year's Academy will be offering Track One: Spiritual Leadership for the 21st Century.** Each track will consist of five retreats per year.

Mark your calendars now. The 1998-99 dates for those retreats are:

Sept. 18 (6:30 p.m.) - Sept. 20 (2 p.m.)

Nov. 13 (6:30 p.m.)-Nov. 14 (4 p.m.)

Jan. 8 (6:30 p.m.)-Jan. 9 (4 p.m.)

March 12 (6:30p.m.)-March 13 (4 p.m.)

April 30 (6:30 p.m.)-May 2 (4 p.m.).

All retreats will be held at the Conference Center in Woodworth.

Retreat leaders will include Bishop Dan Solomon, bishop of the Louisiana Conference; Rev. Loren Mead, author of *Once and Future Church*; Dr. Lovett Weems, Jr., president, St. Paul School of Theology; and Mary Avram, who is spiritual director for seminary students at the University of the South and provides leadership for spiritual retreats and conferences around the country.

Track One will focus on connecting--connecting to our calling, connecting to our souls, connecting to the community, connecting with the congregation and connecting to our vision.

The cost will be \$100 per participant for the whole track (including meals and lodging) and attendance will be limited to 30 clergy and 30 laity candidates. An application process will begin soon..

More information will be forthcoming in a brochure and future articles in the *Review*.



## Confirmation Day with Bishop approaching

Saturday, April 4, Louisiana United Methodist youth will have the opportunity to explore ways to reach out as Christians as they rotate through five different learning stations during Confirmation Day with the Bishop. Areas of exploration include discipleship, worship, mission, music and the United Methodist tradition of serving.

Activities at the Conference Center will begin at 10 a.m. and last until 2:30 p.m. The theme of this year's confirmation day is "Christians Reaching Out to Serve." The

cost is \$10 per person, which covers lunch, registration, program cost and a donation to the Children's Cross at the Conference Center. Registration is necessary. The deadline for registration is March 25.

Last year over 700 people experienced Confirmation Day with the Bishop and what it means to be a connectional church that serves the Lord. Make plans now to register and attend.

Contact Nancy Wofford at (318) 443-5696 if you have questions. Your church should have registration forms available.

**On the inside**

- 2 Does the church have a bottom line?
- 2 At risk--but within reach
- 3 I can't believe she's a Methodist
- 4 Bishop available for itineration



Faith Online:  
Louisiana UM  
on the web  
Page 2





## Being and Doing

### Does the church have a 'bottom line?'

Did we or didn't we? Such a question

bore to the heart of what we have come to call in our society, the "bottom line." It is the "bottom line" that tells us the truth, defines reality, provides feedback, confronts us with accountability and imposes on us an inescapable evaluation.

In the business community, the "bottom line" presses us against the truth of solvency or insolvency. The "bottom line" dispenses with excuses and rationalizations; it requires recognition. It demands to be taken seriously.

I believe the church of Jesus Christ does have a "bottom line;" it is the receiving of persons on profession of faith into life in Christ and life in the church.

Either we did or we didn't! My understanding is that the main mission of the church is (obtaining) professions of faith. There are other dimensions of our mission that are exceedingly important, but professions of faith are the main mission! That is the bottom line!

The Louisiana Conference had a 15 percent increase in professions of faith in 1997. I hope we can record at least a 25 percent increase in 1998.

Let us be clear that this is not a "confirmation class" issue. Someone recently explained to me that the reason their church had no professions of faith for 1997 was that they decided to put the confirmation class on a new rotation so they skipped a year.

I anguished over the number of unsaved and unchurched adults within close proximity to the church building. Claiming adults for Christ in loving, intentional, invitational ways would mean for most United Methodist congregations that the confirmation class would account for only a small portion of its yearly professions of faith.

In a few days all our pastors will receive a card on which to report the professions of faith in the congregation for the first quarter of 1998. Please note that this is the report of the congregation, not simply the pastor. Reporting our professions of faith places all laity and clergy alongside the "bottom line."

The arrival of the Profession of Faith



card has not been met with enthusiasm in some congregations. In introducing me to preach on a recent Sunday, a pastor said, "when this card thing got started I was resentful. I didn't want to fill it out, but frankly, I have to admit it has gotten us moving more intentionally when it comes to professions of faith. In fact, I'm glad something that clear and basic is being asked of me and my church."

I can't think of a greater joy than recording the professions of faith for the previous quarter. I can't think of a greater call to prayer and reflection on the basic mission to which Christ calls us than to record "no one" on the quarterly report.

There is so much that pressures every congregation and every pastor. Building and personnel problems abound. Zoning hearings turn ugly. Air conditioners and heaters have to be replaced. Volunteer leaders get into fits of temper. People freely giving their time to help others are often criticized and

unappreciated. There is so much that demands our time and energy. But the bottom line is, there is a "bottom line!"

Problems, pressures, and pouting pale in comparison to the awesome, wonderful moments of helping another person experience the cleansing grace of God and come to know that in and through Christ, they have been made new and that by the power of God's spirit they can embark upon a heroic, joyful journey of meaning and blessing. "I once was lost and now I am found." Oh, the magnificent, amazing grace of God, and oh, the awesome, wonderful privilege of saying to another, "come with me to Christ and his church."

No matter how many ways we can point to wonderful events in the congregation, or count how many persons were fed and clothed, or how many buildings were built and meetings held, there is in the church of Jesus Christ an essential inquiry, "How many professions of faith were there?" This "bottom line" has a way of pointing us to our top priority!

*Dan E. Solomon*

Dan E. Solomon

## CONNECTED THROUGH 'A PORTION MENT' FOR OTHERS At risk--but within reach

by Hallique Dawson  
Camphor UMC, Baton Rouge

Louisiana Conference churches are partnering with one of their own local churches to reach "at risk" youth.



Hallique Dawson

The Cultural and Tutorial Enrichment Program at Camphor United Methodist Church is an outreach program designed for the boys and girls of the North Baton Rouge-Scotlandville area. It is a concerted effort to instill morals, values, acceptable behaviors, manners, and courtesies necessary to get along with others.

Sixty percent of the children in the program are high-risk kids who are deprived of the education which is essential to developing a well-rounded, productive, contributing and worthwhile citizen. Their attitude is negative toward life; instead of becoming productive citizens, they become hazards to society. This cultural and tutorial enrichment program is bringing about a change.

The program is held weekly after school on Tuesday and Thursday at 4 p.m. It includes teaching, field trips, and hands-on experiences such as attending symphonies, cultural plays, theaters, museums, restaurants, and other related activities.

Consultants are used for workshop presentations on self-esteem, survival skills, spirituality, and acceptable and unacceptable behaviors. Thus far in the program, we have seen raised aspirational levels in the lives of the boys and girls, an increase in positive self-esteem and the development of leadership skills.

In order to reach eligible participants, flyers are circulated in the community, announcements are made in local churches, day care centers are contacted for their participation and door to door solicitation is conducted.

Because of apportionment support in the Louisiana Conference, this ministry is blessing children and bearing witness that "Jesus loves the children."

## ✠ FAITH ONLINE ✠

### Louisiana reaches out on the web

by Tim Hebert  
First UMC, Houma

The growing popularity of the Internet brings with it a whole new world of communication. Basically, the Internet or world-wide web (WWW) is a means of sending and receiving information electronically.

The Christian community has lost no time in using it as a means of providing information and communicating the Gospel to the world. There are Internet sites for every possible need. You can search the Bible, find Christian answers to life's questions, conduct serious religious studies, and "visit" churches around the world. The possibilities are always expanding. A lay speaking course based in Wisconsin is currently being taught over the Internet--with participants as far away as Manila.

The Louisiana Conference has its own website at <<http://www.gbmg-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>>. You will find basic information on our conference, information on each district, e-mail links to pastors, links to a variety of United Methodist and other Christian sites, links to other on-line churches in the conference, and so on. In March, a section on spiritual guidance will be added.

There are over two dozen churches in the Louisiana Conference with websites. Has your church taken the step yet?

You can begin by providing basic information on your church. As you develop the site, it can be used as a means of education, outreach, and evangelism. It can be used as a means of reaching your own members, as well as the unchurched.

If your church doesn't have an Internet account, the pastor or a lay person who has access may volunteer to handle your site. You can get free web space from the GBGM or a number of other sources on which to place your web pages. Even if you don't have access at all, you can visit a nearby library or university that has Internet access, and post four or five pages about your church at the Houses of Worship site (which is also free). In less than half an hour, your church can have its own website at no cost!



In addition to web pages, e-mail communication is becoming more common. In some cases, you don't even need to have Internet access to have an e-mail account. E-mail allows you to send a written message instantaneously. You can even

include images and other files. By typing in several addresses, you can send the message to many people at once. E-mail is another tool that will enable us to increase our efficiency in communicating around the conference...and around the world.

The Louisiana Conference office in Baton Rouge has been online for several months now. The e-mail address is: <[laumc@premier.net](mailto:laumc@premier.net)>.

A booklet has been prepared to assist you if you would like to create a website for your church. It is available online at the conference website. Printed copies will be available at Annual Conference in June.

Tim created and maintains the Louisiana Conference website as a volunteer. If you have questions regarding the Internet or e-mail, send them to him c/o The Review, 527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

## ⌘ Important Announcement ⌘

Annual Conference

dates:

June 8-11, 1998

The current conference

year ends June 15, 1998.

The new Conference

Year begins June 16, 1998.

Pastors going to new

appointments will move

June 16, 1998.





## Kreutziger published in *Connectionalism*

Sarah Kreutziger, a member of Munholland United Methodist Church in Metairie, has a chapter in Volume I of the Lilly-funded three-year study on United Methodism and American Culture at the end of the 20th century. The study, under sponsorship of the Duke Divinity School, plans to publish two more volumes detailing the results of their work.

Her chapter, "Wesley's Legacy of Social Holiness: The Methodist Settlement Movement and American Social Reform," appears in *Connectionalism: Ecclesiology, Mission and Identity*, published by Abingdon Press (1997). Rev. Dr. Graham Matthews, pastor of Peoples UMC in New Orleans, also participated in the study and will have a chapter in a later volume.

Kreutziger is an assistant professor at Tulane University's School of Social Work. A life-long Methodist, she has been researching the contributions of Methodist women to the origins of professional social work for the past 14 years. It was the topic of her PhD dissertation.

She attributes the origins of her research to the discovery of the writings of Rev. Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, the first woman minister ordained in American Methodism. Dr. Shaw later became a leader in women's rights after the Church revoked her ordination because she was a woman.

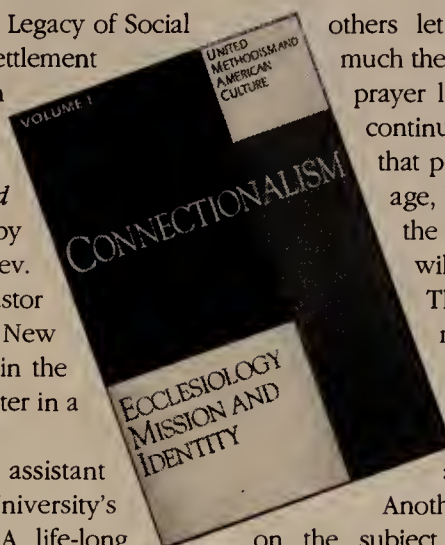
"Our spiritual foremothers inspire and excite me," Kreutziger says. "Their unbending faith, tenacious and courageous perseverance, and their passion to make life

better for others inform my ideals and give me the strength to continue my call to discipleship. Whenever I want to give up, I think of what they went through in a much less hospitable environment to achieve what they believed God was calling them to be and to do. How can we do less?

"I also know from reading their journals how discouraged they got, how often others let them down, and how much they drew strength from their prayer life and Bible study," she continues. "It makes me realize that people are people in every age, but if we keep our eye on the prize, as Paul says, God will take care of the rest. These women were remarkable in every way and can teach us much about discipleship. We need to tell their stories again and again."

Another article by Kreutziger on the subject recently appeared in *Christianity and Social Work*, published by the North American Association of Christians in Social Work Press. The book will be used as a textbook in Schools of Social Work with sectarian affiliation. She has been asked by Duke Divinity School to write another article on women and leadership to be published in a future book on policy and practice in United Methodism. As a result of her interests and active involvement in church activities on the local and national levels, Duke also asked her to serve on its Board of Visitors.

*Connectionalism: Ecclesiology Mission and Identity* is available from Cokesbury. Call 1(800) 672-1789 to order.



## ◆◆◆ You should know ◆◆◆

Family '98 is the first-ever large national ministry event sponsored by The United Methodist Church. It will be held Aug. 5-8 at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville, Tenn.

Under the theme "A Tapestry of God's Handiwork," the conference will address issues that families face now and will face in the twenty-first century. It will feature plenaries, multiple learning options, such as workshops, seminars, resource rooms and youth and children programs, as well as recreational activities for families.

For more information, contact Family '98, General Board of Discipleship, at (615) 340-7176.

courses in both programs. Courses in the Foundational/Deacon Studies program this summer are: Old Testament; UM Doctrine and Polity; Theology; and Mission of the Church. Each course carries either two or three hours of academic credit from United Theological Seminary.

Certification Courses are: Administration and Leadership and Bible.

Program fees are: Deacon Studies: \$424; Certification and Foundational Studies: \$234.

For a registration form and more information, contact the Studies Office, Scarritt-Bennett Center, (615) 340-7545. Registration forms must be received four weeks before the session starts. Financial assistance is available.

Spring is fast approaching. Jackson Area Ministries, Jackson, Ohio, is preparing for its Green Thumb Gardening Project which enables people to grow their own produce.

If you or your church would like to contribute seeds or money, contact JAM Gardening at (740) 286-1320.

United Theological Seminary and Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville are co-sponsoring a two-week intensive program of graduate-level courses July 12-24 for students preparing either for diaconal ministry or to be deacons.

Dr. Donald Rogers and the faculty of United Theological Seminary will teach the

## A Word to Witness

### 'I Can't Believe She's a Methodist'

by Nola Mae Ross  
University UMC, Lake Charles

God must have sent me to listen to her! Juanita Rasmus has revolutionized my stuffy, stick-in-the-mud opinions of what a United Methodist church should be! With a vision of what Jesus wanted us as Christians to be and do, Rasmus is on an exciting mission to propel our church back toward its foundation, back to its real purpose—the bringing-in of the unchurched.

Sunday, Feb. 15, at the Lake Charles District Laity Banquet at Henning Memorial UMC in Sulphur, 165 area Methodists listened as Rev. Rasmus gave her challenging vision for the church. She told of the experiences of she and her husband, Rev. Rudy Rasmus, in growing the 2,500-member St. John's United Methodist Church in Houston, using Jesus' words in Matthew 25:35-36 as a basis.

Rasmus is a "down-home, Amen, hallelujah"-style speaker, a little strong for me—a staid, traditionalist Methodist—to swallow. But her message was so simple, so biblical, so Jesus-oriented, it penetrated my heart. It went right to the core of bringing in people outside the church who desperately need to be inside, but don't know it. We have to care for the needs of our members, she said, as well as fulfill the vision for the outsiders. We have to change our way of thinking . . . and see the real purpose of the church!

Her first challenge to us was to ask how we would welcome certain kinds of people if they walked into our church—a person who hadn't taken a bath in days and smelled bad, one whose breath reeked with alcohol, the kid who had green hair and a long earring, the ex-prisoner, the dope addict, the

Alzheimer's victim, the poverty stricken. Would we give them a hug and really try to fill their needs, take them out for lunch, or to our home for dinner, give them a ride, or be willing to talk or even just to listen to them?

Or would we just tell ourselves, "Sure, I accept them!" and pass down the road on the other side?

"We live in a society," says Rev. Rasmus, "that has pampered and catered, massaged and manicured people into an unconscious state of self-serving ideology. People are addicted to self-pleasuring thoughts, words and deeds. So, the church must begin to market itself and its mission to meet the needs of people who don't think they have a need. We spend billions on cigarette and liquor advertising, yet we're unwilling to spend much of anything on publicizing our church and its mission. We must teach spiritual concepts, discipline, effective leadership, stewardship and team-based leadership. The pastors have to have our help." (This brought some loud "Amen's" from the preachers who were listening to Rasmus.)

"Jesus was very clear," she said, "that His ministry was of word and service. He had the incredible ability to make 'church' real to the self-seeking, self-indulged masses. Ministry in the twenty-first century will not be judged solely by numerical growth, but rather by effectiveness in each church's community. The journey begins across the street, around the corner."

Her ultimate challenge to us was: "How effective are we in our own community?"

Adapted from *Circuit Writer*, the University UMC, Lake Charles, edition of the *United Methodist Review*.

### Franklin Graham brings Crusade to Alexandria

by Rev. Larry O'Dell  
Pastor, Horseshoe Drive UMC,  
Alexandria

Mark March 26, 27, 28, and 29 on your calendar for an exciting opportunity for evangelism in central Louisiana.

On those dates, the Crossroads Franklin Graham Festival '98 will come to the Rapides Parish Coliseum in Alexandria. Franklin Graham is the son of renowned evangelist Dr. Billy Graham. Services will begin at 7 p.m. on the 26th, 27th and 28th. The Sunday service on March 29th will begin at 4 p.m.

Between now and then, everyone is invited to pray that God will use us and these services to reach out to the unchurched of central Louisiana. Every one of us knows people who are unchurched. I hope that you will invite them to attend one or more of the crusade services with you.

### 'God's Trombones' to close theatre season

A musical entitled "God's Trombones" will close out the Trifecta Theatre season at Dillard University in New Orleans.

Performances will be at 8 p.m. April 22-25 and 27 and 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. on April 26. Call (504) 286-4762 for tickets.





# AROUND THE CONFERENCE

## NEWS

### Let's connect . . .

Send us your news (typed copy—not all caps—please, with a contact name and number) and photos (color okay) to:

Bobbie Armstrong  
Editor  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

NOTE: Please send announcements four weeks prior to the event to allow time for publication deadlines.

### Retreat at Uskichitto designed for college-bound seniors

Attention college-bound graduating seniors. You are invited to attend a retreat designed especially for you April 24-26 at Uskichitto Retreat Center outside of Kinder.

Arrival time is 8 p.m. Friday and departure time is around 12 noon Sunday. The cost is \$30; however, scholarships may be available from your local church.

Registration deadline is April 1.

Contact Carolyn Dove, conference youth director, at (504) 346-1646 for more information. Check with your local church for a registration form.

See you there, graduates.

#### REMINDER

Remember to pray for the child on your "Adopt a Child in Prayer" card distributed at Annual Conference and the Special Session.

**Louisiana Conference Edition of the United Methodist Review**  
Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

**EDITORIAL TEAM:**  
Leslie N. Akin, Director,  
Gospel Communications  
Bobbie Armstrong, Editor  
Dr. Alonzo J. Campbell, Liz Lucas

Subscriptions \$12.50 per year  
Send subscriptions, news and information to:  
Editor  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
1(888) 239-5286  
(504)346-1646, (504)383-2652 fax  
e-mail: laumc@premier.net

#### On the Web

The Louisiana Annual Conference has a newly revised homepage. You can find us at  
<http://www.gbmg-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>

#### DEADLINE FOR:

April 3 Issue--March 23  
April 24 Issue--April 6

## Sierra Leone bishop available for itineration in La.

The General Board of Global Ministries is offering an itineration opportunity to the Louisiana Annual Conference.

Bishop Joseph Humper from Sierra Leone is available for itineration between March 1 and July 1, 1998.

He is open to itinerating on all levels of our structure—local church, district and/or conference events.

Bishop Humper is prepared to share about the present conditions and future of Sierra Leone, the Africa Initiative for

Children in Poverty, Mission Outreach in Sierra Leone and his personal faith journey.

If you would like to extend an invitation to Bishop Humper, the General Board of Global Ministries will be responsible for his travel to Louisiana. You will be responsible for his hospitality while he is here.

Contact Sam and Janie Burch, Louisiana Conference co-secretaries of the GBGM at (318) 439-8630.

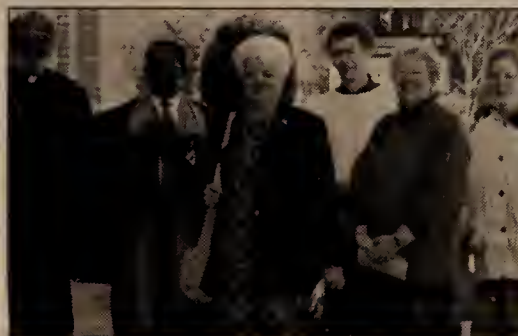
### Evangeline delegation travels to Beaumont

Under the leadership of Rev. Robert Ross, eight members of the Evangeline UMC, Baton Rouge, family recently traveled to Beaumont, Tex. to dialogue, fellowship and worship with the McCabe Roberts Avenue UMC.

Pastor, Dr. Elijah Stansell, and eighteen members of the McCabe Roberts Avenue membership shared with the Evangeline group, who recently went through a merger, the details about their decision to merge and the struggles they encountered becoming a culturally diverse, cohesive membership. Dr. Stansell described the process as going through "the good, the bad and the ugly, with the outcome of the

wonderful and worshipful!"

Three steps for forward movement were developed which will help the newly merged Evangeline unite its congregation. The main ingredient, of course, will be prayer.



## Summer Camps 1998

**Camp Istrouma**  
Greenwell Springs, La.  
(504) 261-2089

|                 |                |                |            |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| Middle Elem. I  | June 29-July 2 | Junior High I  | July 20-24 |
| Middle Elem. II | July 13-16     | Junior High II | Aug. 3-7   |
| Older Elem. I   | July 6-10      | Senior High    | June 22-26 |
| Older Elem. II  | July 27-31     | Intermediate   | Aug. 10-14 |

Hey Kids!

**Caney Conference Center**  
P.O. Box 707  
Minden, La.



|               |            |                |            |
|---------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| I Junior High | June 8-12  | Senior High    | July 6-10  |
| Pre-Camp      | June 19-21 | II Elem.       | July 27-31 |
| I Elem.       | June 22-26 | II Junior High | Aug. 3-7   |

On Saturday, May 15, there will be a Jubilee celebrating Caney's 50 years in ministry. Pack a sack lunch and come celebrate from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.!

### Conference Program Calendar

#### March

- 21 UMW Finance Committee
- 23-24 Gathering of Elders, Conference Center, Noon-Noon
- 26-29 Cursillo #63, Conference Center
- 30-5/2 Cabinet Meeting

#### April

- 2-4 VIM North Shore District, Sager-Brown
- 2 UM Foundation Annual Meeting

of the Board of Trustees, Baton Rouge

- 4 Confirmation Day with the Bishop, Conference Center
- 12 Easter Sunday
- 14-16 Cabinet Meeting
- 16-18 Convocation on Urban Ministry, Dallas, TX

#### May

- 4 Annual Louisiana Clergy Open, Rapides Golf and Country Club, Alexandria

## NOTEWORTHY....

Rev. Howard Daughenbaugh, district superintendent in Petersburg, Ill., is retiring from the ordained ministry. From 1958-69 he served as the campus minister at the **Tulane/Loyola United Methodist Campus Ministry** in New Orleans.

Friends of Howard are gathering notes of remembrance to be published in a book for him on the occasion of his retirement. People who knew Rev. Daughenbaugh who want to send a note celebrating his friendship and ministry should send it to the attention of John Hamilton, 631 S. Grand West, Springfield, Ill. 62704. If you have questions feel free to call Darryl Van Schuler at (217) 632-7689.

**St. Mark UMC, Opelousas**, pays tribute to "Women's History Month" on Saturday, March 28, at 6:30 p.m. by presenting the play, "To Be Young, Gifted and Black," a production of the Dillard University Theater Department in New Orleans. The play is about Lorraine Hansberry, the youngest American, the fifth woman and the first African-American to win the "Best Play of the Year Award" for her play, "A Raisin in the Sun."

This event will be a fundraiser for various youth projects at St. Mark. Adult donations are \$10 and donations are \$5 for students and senior citizens over age 60. The production will be held at Opelousas Senior High School auditorium.

For ticket information, call St. Mark UMC at (318) 948-8537.

The **choir of St. Charles UMC, Destrehan**, will present the musical narrative, "Every Tongue Confess," on Saturday, April 4 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 5 at 10:50 a.m. Performances will be in the sanctuary of St. Charles UMC at 1905 Ormond Blvd.

There will be approximately 40 adults involved in the production. Come and enjoy this delightful gift in the spirit of Jesus Christ...and bring a friend.

Contact Chris LaBure for tickets or information at (504) 764-8321.

Don't forget the **Clergy/Spouse Retreat** at the Conference Center April 17-18. Joy Solomon is the retreat leader.

This event is for the spouse of any clergy—not clergy and spouses.

Contact Judy Willis at (318) 397-8444 for information.

The **North Shore District Laity Banquet** will be held at St. Timothy UMC Sunday, March 29 from 5-7 p.m. Bishop Dan Solomon will speak on the subject, "To Serve the Present Age." Music will be provided by the Aldersgate UMC Barbershop Quartet.

Tickets are \$10 and are available at any NS District church. Reservations for dinner and nursery must be reported to the District Office by Monday, March 23.

CONFERENCE OFFICE TOLL-FREE NUMBER: 1.888.239.5286



# Louisiana

## CONFERENCE

### edition

Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
504.346.1646  
/504.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

018000

Send PS Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

Vol 14 No 25 ■ April 3, 1998

## OWL Center offers serenity, self-confidence to Louisiana youth

by Kyle Birch  
Asst. Director of Development,  
Louisiana Children's Home, Ruston

On Thursday, March 5, Louisiana Methodist Children's Home in Ruston hosted members of the Louisiana Conference Volunteers in Mission Task Force. The visit featured a trip to the Outdoor Wilderness Learning Center (OWL), an 800-acre track of land northwest of Ruston owned by the Children's Home.

The OWL is a beautiful place that frees people from the distractions of life. While there, participants enjoy the serenity of nature and, through various activities, learn there are alternatives to daily challenges.

Committee members, pictured below on the Team Challenge Course, toured the camping area, pavilion and outdoor chapel. The Home's vision is to see this beautiful location used by local

construct six cabins where young people will camp beginning this summer. Most of the lumber has been donated for six cabins and a bath house. If you are interested in donating supplies or helping with construction, please call Rev. Larry Norman, Task Force chair, at (504) 356-4459 or Kyle Birch at (318) 255-5020.

On a related matter, the VIM task force has given a grant to Louisiana Methodist Children's Home to take a group of youth and adults to visit Project Heifer in Perryville, Arkansas in May. The team of 40 will include Methodist Children's Home youth and staff, and a group from St. Paul's and Hope United Methodist Churches in Monroe. The trip will challenge participants to consider how the Global Village project in Perryville could be modeled in Louisiana at the OWL center.

Another goal is to involve St. Paul



churches, as well as the Home's youth. We believe through outdoor experiences here, they will build self-confidence and gain a closer relationship with God.

Originally donated by Loraine Howard, the OWL has evolved into a multi-purpose outdoor program. Most of the current activities sites have been constructed with the volunteer help of groups from New York, Texas and Louisiana—to name only a few states. The youth at Louisiana Methodist Children's Home have found it a great way to experience growth without the distractions of television, computer games, or air conditioning!

The Louisiana VIM Task Force, and other church groups, are planning to

UMC and Hope UMC youth and counselors in Project Fish, a ministry program for youth empowerment which equips young people to positively affect other youths. Once returned from Perryville, the church youth will be challenged to invite some non-church youth from their communities in Monroe to come to the OWL center—along with the church youth and counselors, and share the facility.

It is hoped that such an experience might help build relationships in the community and possibly add new members to the churches' youth groups.

Watch for future articles as we update you on the success of these dreams.

## A Word to Witness Easter is power!

by Rev. Robert Rowland  
Pastor, Farmerville UMC

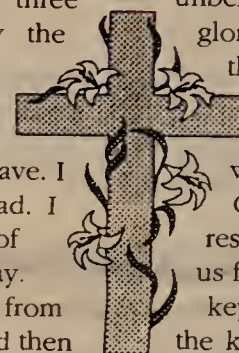
Easter is power! --the power of God released which raised a dead Son after he had been in the grave for three days. Many gravestones carry the inscription, "Here lies...." But on the tomb of Jesus are the words, "He is not here." In Joseph's garden is history's only empty grave. I believe Jesus rose from the dead. I believe the resurrection power of God is still being unleashed today.

God wants to resurrect us from whatever defeat is in our lives and then give us a victorious death. God wants to resurrect us from a life of loneliness and gloom into one of meaning and joy. God wants to resurrect us from a life deadened by fear to a life enlivened by

confidence. God wants to resurrect us from our own personal death into God's own personal paradise.

May we roll back the stone of any unbelief in our hearts and behold the glory of the empty tomb. May we thrill to the power that can now be ours. We need to place our hand into Jesus' hand and say with Thomas, "My Lord and my God." Belief in Jesus and his resurrection is the key that delivers us from fear and sorrow. Jesus is the key to personal happiness. Jesus is the key to peace. Jesus is the key to everlasting life.

We can know this peace. We can know this joy. We can have this power... if we commit ourselves to God through Jesus Christ.



*Happy Easter!*

## VIM 'TAKIN IT TO THE STREETS at Annual Conference

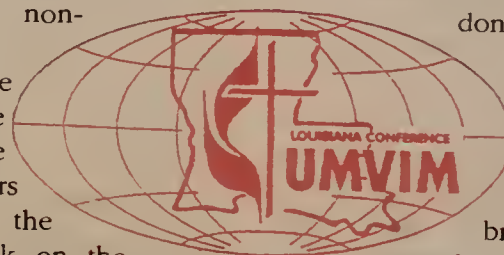
Prior to and during Annual Conference in June, Louisiana Volunteers in Mission will be "takin it to the streets." This will be a great opportunity for mission for delegates and non-delegates alike.

Beginning the Saturday before Annual Conference (June 6), volunteers will have the opportunity to work on the construction of a new Habitat for Humanity house, serve in the Hospitality House soup kitchen, help with vacation Bible school at Provident House, paint St. James UMC in Shreveport or help with

evangelism initiatives at Mt. Zion UMC. Also, a blood mobile will be parked outside the Centenary Gold Dome during Annual Conference sessions (June 8-11) to allow attendees the opportunity to donate blood.

Plan now to get involved in one of these mission opportunities. Also, everyone is asked to bring boxes of macaroni and cheese with them to Shreveport for the soup kitchen.

Registration deadline is April 27. Contact Rev. Tracy MacKenzie at (318) 527-5483 or Dr. Alonzo Campbell at (888) 239-5286 to register.



**On the inside**

- 2 Faith and Reason
- 3 Louisiana VIM on the move
- 3 You should know
- 4 Bethany UMC's 'Know Your Job'
- 4 Children & Poverty teleconference



Resignation or Redemption?  
Bishop Dan Solomon  
Page 2





## Being and Doing

### Resignation or Redemption?



Dan E. Solomon

We were sitting in a small restaurant in the old walled city within the exploding metropolis of Manila. I was there to represent the Council of Bishops and the General Board of Global Ministries for the 100th Anniversary of The United Methodist Church in the Philippines. The words that came from the lips of this leading lay person of The Central United Methodist Church, where I had preached that morning, were surprising, but not without precedent in the life of the church.

"We were more effective during the dark days of Japanese occupation than we have been since," he said. It was clear he wasn't longing for those "good old days." Likewise, he acknowledged the many vital and dynamic ministries of the church over the last 50 years. He was eager to enter the next millennium with a vision for mission that was marked by hope; however, he had the courage to be candid about

what happens to the church and any of us when we get comfortable and "at ease in Zion."

Confronting more than one person and one congregation in Louisiana is the appeal of resignation over redemption. Rather than viewing our current realities as God's exciting call to a mission of redemption, we yield in resignation to a well-rehearsed litany of excuses: "Everyone has moved away." "We've all gotten old." "New Orleans is unique, and besides it has parking problems." "What's the conference going to do to help us?" "The same people are asked to do all the work."

Yet, when disaster has visited our conference, or some calamity has befallen a church, a dynamic power and resilient ministry is suddenly unleashed and people often say of the response, "it is a miracle." Of course it is a miracle! It is the miracle of redemption replacing resignation and it happens consistently, when amidst difficult days and challenging circumstances, people lay aside petty differences and selfish concerns and become galvanized around a worthy and holy mission. In such moments, we live at our best and we give our best to the Master.

Some years ago, a book was written

with the arresting title, *The Comfortable Pew*. Now, frankly, in what sitting I've done in church pews, I am led to conclude that not many of them qualify as comfortable. However, the message of the book was not about the church's furniture, but about the church's future. We begin to lose a vital future when we begin to focus on a comfortable present.

The evidence is ample that the church's mission and faithfulness prosper amidst persecution and hardship. The question troubles us, "Is such persecution essential for there to be a vital witness?"

I believe the answer to that question resides in further reflection on the inner dynamic that claims a person or a people amidst danger and difficulty. It is in such a time that we begin to operate out of a different paradigm. We are motivated, not

by preserving the status quo, but by reaching forward to a new day of blessing and fulfillment.

My conviction is that we can lay hold of the motivation to reach forward to a new day of blessing and fulfillment right in the midst of being "at ease in Zion" or in our "comfortable pews." To conclude that the primary way the people of God are motivated for mission and ministry is as a result of disaster and tragedy is to testify to an even greater disaster and tragedy, and that is that the awesome love of God in Christ that brings to us redemption, the loving grace of God that forgives our sin, the wonderful, joyful work of God's Holy Spirit are not of such nature and magnitude as to motivate us to embrace with passion and confidence the redemptive mission to which Christ calls us.

We now find ourselves at a fork in the road! Resignation or redemption? The presence of the Resurrected Jesus Christ who said, "I have come to make all things new," is surely sufficient motivation to commence and continue a mission of redemption—or does it take a monumental national or personal tragedy?

Dan E. Solomon

Of course it is a miracle! It is the miracle of redemption replacing resignation...

## Bishops' appeal offers 'Hope for the Children of Africa'

The children of Africa, where our church continues to experience its most rapid growth, are the innocent victims of the civil strife that has gripped much of the continent for years. As part of the incredible witness coming from Africa, United Methodists there have been deeply involved in church ministries that nurture the bodies, the minds and the spirits of children. Faithfulness to God requires all United Methodists to celebrate with them God's presence on earth by witnessing for peace, justice and compassion in Africa.

To that end, the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church has established a Bishops' Appeal, "Hope for the Children of Africa," which seeks to raise \$12 million over the next three years:

- To provide relief and reconciliation for African children through the restoration of United Methodist churches and ministries that serve the physical, social and spiritual needs of children.

- To help assure for the children of Africa the abundant life that God intends for all children by proclaiming in word

and deed the gospel of God's grace.

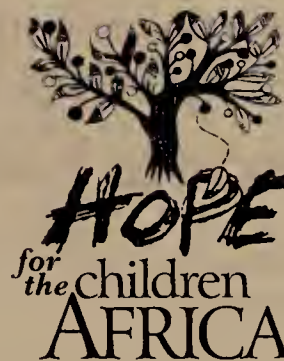
- To engage the entire family of United Methodists in prayer and generous participation in the Bishops' Appeal, **Hope for the Children of Africa, Advance #101000-4**. Checks, made payable to Advance GCFA, should be submitted through your local church treasurer to your annual conference treasurer for forwarding to the General Council on Finance and Administration for distribution. Please write the Advance number on your check.

The bishops of The United Methodist Church personally pledged \$100,000 to the appeal and the General Council on Finance and Administration pledged

\$37,000.

The Louisiana Conference, with Dr. Chris Andrews, senior pastor, First UMC, Baton Rouge, as chair, is currently forming a Task Force on Hope for the Children of Africa, to guide us in this initiative over the next three years.

This is a great time to make a contribution to this cause as the Lenten season comes to a close.



## New television series delivers 'Faith and Reason'

by Rev. Steve Kelly  
Pastor, Greenwood UMC

Do you ever find your faith at odds with what seems reasonable in this hectic and confusing world? Sometimes we think we must choose between faith or reason, but now it can be Faith AND Reason!

This exciting and lively program, broadcast weekly on the ODYSSEY Cable Channel, features the late Dr. D.L. Dykes, Jr., former pastor of First UMC, Shreveport, and a popular United Methodist minister for 30 years. It helps us make sense out of many issues facing Christians today in our spiritual journey.

The moderator and David Dykes, Dr. Dykes' son, and guests respond to video footage of Dr. Dykes' sermons on controversial topics against the background of the Civil Rights Movement, the Cold War and the social and moral revolutions of the 60s and 70s. His ideas are expanded in each program to address issues facing each of us today.

Series guests include some of the leading thinkers of our times such as Dr. Marcus Borg, Dr. Elaine Pagels, Dr.

Dominic Crossan, Rabbi Harold Kushner and Sister Joan Chittister.

The programs examine topics such as "What Can We Really Expect from Prayer?" "Does Christianity Have a Place At The Political Table?" and "What Should Christians Do About The Death Penalty?"

*Faith and Reason* is broadcast Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. with a repeat at 1 a.m. Friday. Videotapes of programs, complete with study guides, are available through EcuFilm. You can also purchase videotapes from the D. L. Dykes, Jr. Foundation by calling (800) 882-7424 or by visiting their web site at [www.dldykes.org](http://www.dldykes.org). This wonderful series is owned and produced by the D.L. Dykes, Jr. Foundation which is based in Shreveport. It is filmed at the UMCOM studio in Nashville. The Public Media Division of UMCOM shared in funding for the series.-- adapted from the ODYSSEY Channel program guide.

Editors note: Dr. Dykes was named to the United Methodist Association of Communicators (UMAC) Hall of Fame last October. He authored **The Power of Love**, a profound book which challenges the way we love ourselves and others.



Dr. D.L. Dykes, Jr.

ODYSSEY



## Important Announcement



Annual Conference

dates:

June 8-11, 1998

The current conference year ends June 15, 1998.

The new Conference Year begins June 16, 1998.

Pastors going to new appointments will move June 16, 1998.

**Faith and Reason schedule for May:**

May 7 Who Did Jesus Exclude From the Church?

May 14 What Did Jesus Really Believe About God?

May 21 Are Christianity and Patriotism Compatible?

May 28 Does Christianity Have a Place at the Political Table?





# LOUISIANA VIM ON THE MOVE

## Moments in Mission

### Fact-finding trip reveals opportunities in Mexico

by Billy Bridges

It's 6:28 a.m., Monday, Feb. 2, 1998, and 13 curious folks (six laypersons and seven clergy, including our fearless leader, Dr. Alonzo Campbell), soar into the wild blue yonder for Dallas to get to Northern Mexico. In McAllen, Texas, we picked up a van and small station wagon complete with Larry Acton, Oklahoma Conference VIM coordinator. After lunch, we crossed the Rio Grande to Mexico.

We had set out to determine what missions were needed to help our Mexican neighbors, but hadn't the foggiest about how to do it—at least my wife Marion and I didn't. However, Larry didn't let any grass grow under our feet. Before leaving McAllen, Larry showed us a church that has accommodations for VIM teams commuting to missions nearby and then took us across the river to Rio Bravo and through a community where 104 houses have been, and are being built by various VIM teams. We also visited a training-medical clinic under construction by various VIM teams in Rio Bravo. When completed it will be a site for medical missions. Meanwhile, there is work for several more teams.

Changing to our new guide, interpreter and chauffeur, Susan Parra, field representative for the Oklahoma VIM program, we proceeded to

Monterrey where we spent our nights in the Methodist Conference Center dormitory and our days visiting sites in Monterrey and the surrounding area. After meeting with Mexican Bishop Esparza and his staff to hear their priorities, we visited projects in and around Monterrey in various stages of construction.

As an architect, two missions caught my attention: The John Wesley Methodist Seminary in Monterrey is an historic building that cannot be changed on the exterior, but needs complete interior renovation to be used as a seminary. The other is the addition of a new sanctuary and fellowship hall for a church at Ciudad Valle Hermosa. The congregation has outgrown its present building.

I thank God for the opportunity to use my talents in such a worthy cause. My wife Marion and I have since been on "mini missions" to Monterrey and Valle Hermosa to plan both of these projects. When the planning is complete, we'll be calling on some of you to help make these dreams a reality.

Other team members also are following up on medical and other mission opportunities revealed in our first fact-finding trip.

We'll keep you posted.

## ◆◆◆ You should know ◆◆◆

**DeForrest Wiksten**, director of admissions for Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, will be in Baton Rouge Wednesday, April 15 to host a **Dinner Table Talk event entitled "Call to Ministry, Vocational Choice, Education to Seek, School to Choose."** The evening at Serop's Restaurant, 4065 Government Street, will begin at 6:15 p.m. and is open to anyone interested in preparing for the ministry. The meal will be paid for by SMU.

Reservations are necessary. Call SMU at (800) 982-5933 to make your reservation. Local contacts are Roger Templeton at (504) 344-0343 and Randall Nichols at (504) 344-7695.



On April 6 and 7, Public Broadcasting Stations (PBS) will air **"From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians,"** a program about the life of Jesus and the movement he started, with some challenges to familiar assumptions and conventional notions about the origins of Christianity.

Scheduled to coincide with Holy Week and Passover, the program uses fresh historical evidence to transport

viewers back 2,000 years to the time and place where Jesus lived and preached. It features interviews with New Testament scholars, historians and archaeologists who represent a wide variety of faiths and beliefs. Two interviewees will be from Methodist-related Duke and Boston Universities.

A discussion guide for viewers and additional information on research and discoveries concerning Jesus' life and the rise of Christianity is available on the Internet: [www.pbs.org/frontline](http://www.pbs.org/frontline). --  
*United Methodist News Service*



**New strategies for church fundraising campaigns** are being offered by a section of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

Besides helping churches gather financial pledges traditionally, staff members of the board's Office of Finance and Field Service will offer alternate methods for gathering financial pledges and the use of three campaign models complete with themes, illustrative materials and activities for promoting stewardship.

Contact Joyce Wilkerson at (212) 870-3837 for more information.

## Cuba trip planned for August

By Dr. Jack O'Dell

First UMC, Lafayette

One of the memories that will always be in my mind took place in an old church building in Havana, Cuba four years ago. The church was filled with about 150 youth worshipping Christ in an exciting service. The preacher was an older minister who just sat in the congregation and let the youth lead the service. I asked him, "Are they forced to be here by their parent? What's the deal?" He answered, "They are here because they want to be here! Jesus has changed their life."

The Cuba Initiative of the Louisiana Annual Conference will have a team of Louisiana United Methodists in Cuba this summer, Aug. 1-9. Our purpose will be to share the love of Jesus Christ in ways that make a Christian difference. Our

task will be to work on a construction project identified as a priority by the bishop of the Methodist Church of Cuba. The Louisiana Conference will make a \$5,000 contribution to the Methodist Church of Cuba for construction costs. The Methodist Church in Cuba is one of the fastest growing churches in Methodism today. They need our prayers...and our presence. They will receive our gifts and services!

Dr. Henry Blount and I will lead the mission team, which can total no more than 12 people. If you are interested in going or want more information, contact me at (318) 233-3811. A \$100 deposit will be needed to reserve your spot. The cost of the mission will not exceed \$1200 per person. Spaces will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Team leader training teaches ABCs of good VIM

by Rev. Robert Ross

Evangeline UMC, Baton Rouge  
VIM team leader

Louisiana Volunteers in Mission Team Leader Training was held March 13-14 at the Louisiana Conference Center under the direction of Dr. Alonzo Campbell. Dr. Larry Acton, VIM coordinator for the Oklahoma Conference, was the instructor; his topics included: "What It Means to be a

recruitment and on-site experiences.

Around thirty people from all over the conference attended. We left with the knowledge that in this moment we are celebrating the experience and inviting fellow Christians and their community to join us. The Louisiana VIM is now "on the road." Louisiana Methodists are doing what God is asking them to be about in our world; service is the key as we remember all of God's children are



Mission Team Leader," "The Purpose of VIM with Christ as the Focus," and "Christ Is the Center of All Mission."

Following registration, dinner and a welcome by Dr. Campbell, the group (pictured above) focused on why team training is needed. Dr. Acton spoke on attitude, behavior and characteristics--the ABCs of good volunteers in mission--and on fund raising and budget building. On Saturday, Dr. Acton discussed

the same no matter where they reside, whether in El Reno, Okla., Cuba, South America, Russia or Africa. VIM is about our service to them all. We are grateful for this weekend and this opportunity to meet Christ.

The Louisiana VIM team invites you to come join us as mission volunteers and team leaders. God is calling you!

## VIM team members needed...join us!

**April 19-24:** Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference (OIMC) Church Construction

**April 20-24:** Rio Bravo Mexico, Medical Clinic Construction

**April 30-May 3:** Nuevo Progreso, Mexico--Medical Construction

**May 30-June 6 and June 14:** Belize--Construction

**June 14-20:** OIMC--Construction

**June 22-28:** Paoli, Okla.--Construction  
**June 22-26:** Sager-Brown--Construction  
**July 5-14:** Monterrey, Mexico--Construction

**Aug. 9-15:** Hafer Project--Agriculture

Come make your own moments in mission!

Call the Conference Office at (504) 346-1646 or (888) 239-5286 to reserve your spot.



AROUND

THE CONFERENCE

NEWS

Coming soon ...



Send your news (typed copy—not all caps—please, with a contact name and number) and photos (color okay) to:

Bobbie Armstrong, Editor  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**NOTE:** Please send announcements four weeks prior to the event to allow time for publication deadlines.

Registration Form for Clergy Spouse Retreat

April 17-18, 1998, Louisiana Conference Center

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Diet: \_\_\_\_\_

For all or part of weekend--includes 3 meals

OPTION 1

Registration: \$33 per person/double occupancy

Roommate: \_\_\_\_\_

First Choice \_\_\_\_\_ Second Choice \_\_\_\_\_

OR

OPTION 2

If you would like to stay with three or four of your friends and help make space at the Conference Center for others, please check with them and list their names below. Your cost is \$31 per person per night.

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Debbie Taylor, Louisiana Conference Center

P. O. Box 378, Woodworth, LA 71485

NOTEWORTHY ...

The Louisiana Conference Peace with Justice Essay Contest for High School Youth will end May 15. A certificate and \$100 cash prize will be awarded to the district winners at Annual Conference.

The theme of the contest is "Economic Justice." Local church contest winners names should be sent to the district office as soon as possible to be entered in the district contest.

For more information, contact Nell Inman, conference coordinator of the Peace with Justice program, at (318) 687-5033.

.....

Several churches in the Alexandria District have joined together for Joint Holy Week Services April 6-9 at Newman UMC in Alexandria. Rev. Don Avery, Alexandria District Superintendent, will lead Holy Communion services Thursday. A local minister will speak each day; a mass choir, male choir and youth choirs will also perform. A praise service will be held from 6:30-7 p.m. each day followed by the worship service at 7 p.m.

Contact Rev. James E. Ray, Sr. at (31 8) 442-6176 for more information.

.....

The United Methodist Women of Mt. Zion UMC in New Orleans will hold its Annual Luncheon Fashion Show April 18 at 1 p.m. at Perrault Plaza, 6201 Chef Menteur Highway. Proceeds will benefit local, state and world mission.

Contact Myraline Jamison, president, at (504) 895-6110 for details.

.....

Wesley UMC, Baton Rouge, will celebrate its Annual Men's Day Program April 19. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy this occasion.

Contact Melvin Jupiter, president, Wesley UMM, at (504) 343-8421 for more information.

.....

Several churches in the Denham Springs area are participating in the Livingston Unit of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life May 1-2. They invite you to join them at the North Park Track in Denham Springs from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. both days.

Call Sharon Soileau at (504) 664-4801 for more information.

.....

You are invited to help the Henning UMC, Sulphur, youth "Carry the Light" of Christ to New York City this summer. Its Spirit Wind Youth Choir will be presenting a concert sharing the Light of Christ and the Gospel Message of Peace there June 13-17. One of these concerts will be held at the United Nations!

If you (or maybe your Sunday school class) would like to sponsor a youth to "Carry the Light," please contact Micky Cloud at (318) 255-7911. They need sponsors for 55 youth at \$75 each.

In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to:

Rev. Ben Fant, pastor, Plain Dealing-Walker's Chapel (Shreveport District), on the death of his brother, Mr. Liddel Fant, March 10. His funeral was held March 13 in Houston.

Rev. Steve Caraway, pastor, University UMC, Lake Charles, on the death of his mother, Mrs. Anna Mae Caraway, who died March 12. A memorial service was held March 14 at First UMC, Kenner.

Dr. Bentley Sloane, retired (Shreveport District), on the death of his wife, LeDeal, March 14. Her funeral was held March 18 at First UMC, Shreveport. Memorials can be made to the Bentley Sloane Fund at Centenary College or to First UMC, Shreveport.

CONFERENCE OFFICE

TOLL-FREE NUMBER: 1.888.239.5286

Louisiana Conference Edition of the

United Methodist Review

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Leslie N. Akin, Director, Gospel Communications

Bobbie Armstrong, Editor

Dr. Alonzo J. Campbell, Liz Lucas

Subscriptions \$12.50 per year

Send subscriptions, news and information to:

Editor

527 North Boulevard

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

1(888) 239-5286

(504)346-1646, (504)383-2652 fax

e-mail: laumc@premier.net

On the Web

The Louisiana Annual Conference has a newly revised homepage. You can find us at

http://www.gbmg-umc.org/louisiana-conference/.

DEADLINE FOR:

April 17 Issue — April 6

May 1 Issue — April 20

Bethany UMC helps new officers 'Know Your Job'

by Lauren Frazier

Bethany UMC Planning Committee

Bethany UMC, New Orleans, held its "Know Your Job" Church Leadership Conference on Saturday, Jan. 31. The four-hour event was designed to teach newly-elected church officers about their positions and responsibilities.

Presentations were given on the The Book of Discipline and The Book of Resolutions and leadership as it is defined in the Bible. Most of the conference, however, focused on specific work areas of the church such as stewardship, evangelism and mission and education.



"Know Your Job" workshop presenters at Bethany UMC pause for a group picture.

Satellite teleconference coming in May

Churches' help needed

Attention all churches! Dust off your satellite dishes and get ready for an important satellite teleconference coming this spring. On Tuesday, May 5, "IT TAKES A CHILD...To see what really matters in the world, To be open to the power of God's love and spirit" will be broadcast live and free from 7-8:30 p.m.

A joint venture between the Bishops' Initiative on Children & Poverty and the UM Teleconference Connection, the teleconference will celebrate and challenge us about children and poverty. Participants will include Bishop Marshall Meadors, Jr., chair of the bishop's initiative; Bishop Kenneth L. Carder; and



Peggy Halsey, from the GBGM. Garlinda Burton, editor of *The Interpreter* magazine, will moderate.

In order to assure that as many people as possible in Louisiana participate in this event, the Conference Office would like to know which churches have the capabilities to be a downlink site. Sites need C-Band satellite downlink capabilities and a TV or video monitor. A direct-line telephone in the viewing room will allow you to participate in the call-in segments, but it is not essential.

If you can be a downlink site, please let your district office know as soon as possible or contact Bobbie Armstrong at the Conference Office (888-239-5286).

Conference Program Calendar

|         |         |                                                                                     |
|---------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April   | 27-29   | Spring Interviews for Local Pastors                                                 |
| 12      | 30-May3 | Cursillo #64, Louisiana Conference Center                                           |
| 14-16   | 30-May3 | VIM Nuevo Progreso, Mexico                                                          |
| 16-18   | May     |                                                                                     |
| 18      | 2       | Seminar: Building Loving & Lasting Relationships, Trinity UMC, Ruston, 9 a.m.-4 p.m |
| 19-24   | 3       | YSF Sunday                                                                          |
| 20-24   | 4       | Annual Louisiana Clergy Open, Rapides Golf & Country Club, Alexandria               |
| 21      |         |                                                                                     |
| 25-May1 |         | Council of Bishops                                                                  |



# Louisiana

## CONFERENCE

### edition

Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
504.346.1646  
/504.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

018000

Send P.O. Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

Vol 14 No 25 ■ April 17, 1998

## Bishop, youth gather for 'holy moment' of confirmation, dedication of Children's Cross

by Bobbie Armstrong  
LUM Review Editor

On a brilliant April Saturday, 685 United Methodist youth and adults gathered in Woodworth, La. to celebrate the confirmation of youthful faith and the dedication of the Children's Cross (pictured right) recently erected at the Conference Center.

"This is a holy moment in Louisiana Methodism," Bishop Dan Solomon told the crowd of young people assembled in the shadow of the massive structure on April 4. "We dedicate this Children's Cross and we give each of you a small cross as a reminder to take this cross and all that it symbolizes with you out into the world," he said. The youth, and those gathered as witnesses of their day with the bishop, clutched the crosses which had been placed around their necks and repeated vows of faith given to them by Bishop Solomon.



Photo by Bobbie Armstrong

The combined event was the culmination of weeks of training for the youth and months of effort by Mrs. Joy Solomon, the bishop's wife, and other members of the Children's Cross Task Force to bring Mrs. Solomon's vision of a memorial to children at this site to fruition.

Thirty-feet tall and 25-feet across at the widest expanse of its arms, the Children's Cross was designed by Mary Caraway and constructed by Thompson Electric Sign Company in Baton Rouge. It is made out of 12-inch thick aluminum sheets and is illuminated with neon lighting. It was paid for by donations from Louisiana United Methodists, many of them young people.

Confirmation Day with the Bishop is an annual event which honors United Methodist youth who have completed or are in the process of completing confirmation training. This year's theme

was "Christians Reaching Out to Serve."

During the day-long event, attendees were divided into groups which stayed together and followed a leader identified by a blue, red, yellow, purple or orange banner. Each of the groups rotated through 20-minute training session on discipleship, worship, mission, music and serving. Designed to appeal to young minds, the interactive sessions included live music, brilliant displays and realistic portrayals of Methodism figures such as founder John Wesley and his mother and Harry Hoosier, an early circuit rider and "horseman for the Lord," complete with his horse. After the sessions (which included lunch) were completed, the crowd walked a mile around the lake to the site of the Children's Cross for the dedication.

"The day was the completion of a dream for me," Mrs. Solomon said. "The cross will minister to generations to come." (See photos, page 2.)

## Henderson, Watson named to DS appointments

by Bobbie Armstrong  
LUM Review Editor

Bishop Dan Solomon has announced two district superintendent appointments in the Louisiana Annual Conference which will take effect June 16, the beginning of the new conference year.

Rev. Freddie C. Henderson, pastor, Wesley UMC, Baton Rouge, will become district superintendent of the New Orleans District and Dr. Grayson B. Watson, pastor, Noel UMC, Shreveport, will serve as district superintendent for the North Shore District. Henderson will replace Dr. Carole Cotton-Winn in New Orleans, who has completed an eight-year tenure as district superintendent there, and Watson will be replacing Rev. Carl E. Rhoads, whose appointment has not yet been announced.

"These two pastors, both in their personal witness and their pastoral leadership, exemplify the qualities that bring strength to the Cabinet and the Louisiana Conference," said Bishop Solomon in his announcement of the

appointments. "Both individuals have served faithfully and productively in their appointments. Their gifts will enhance the missional thrust of our conference."

Henderson's appointment ends 26 years in Baton Rouge and a 10-year pastorate at Wesley UMC, established in 1866, which he characterizes as a journey of healing and of blending staid traditions and new members for a new day. "I am looking forward to the opportunity to create partnerships and join together resources in New Orleans, especially to reach out to the youth around us who are crying out to us."

Watson, who leaves Noel UMC after six years, says he is looking forward to a strong relationship with lay people and ministers across the North Shore District, "especially younger ministers who have a special place in my heart."

He and his family are excited about returning to south Louisiana, especially the Mandeville area. It is a place, he says, he would have picked himself if asked where he would like to go.



Rev. Freddie C. Henderson, Sr.



Dr. Grayson B. Watson

## Welcome District Pages!

Open this issue of the *LUM Review* and you will be pleasantly surprised by the addition of four district pages. These pages are here for you; they will feature the news in each of Louisiana's nine districts. We will rotate them in each issue and we hope you will support these pages by sending your news to the District Communication Advisor who will be pulling the information together so it can appear here. They are a great group to work with, so please keep them informed.

In the coming weeks, you will be seeing other changes in this paper which we are implementing to keep Louisiana United Methodists connected and communicating in our mission: making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Bobbie Armstrong, editor

On the  
inside

- 2 Indicators are Instructive
- 3 Louisiana churches support The Advance
- 3 District missionaries in place
- 4 Motorcycle ride-in



Denim Day  
at Annual  
Conference  
Page 2





## Being and Doing

### Indicators are Instructive

We depend on "indicators" every day. Whether it is bank balances, temperatures, speed limits, or cost analysis, we rely on the guidance and feedback of "indicators." "Indicators" help us make decisions, establish priorities and undertake special initiatives.

Many "indicators" within the Louisiana Conference thrill and inspire me. How I rejoice in the number of "professions of faith" across our conference. The increased number of new entrants into the candidacy process for future clergy leadership is a great joy. Your response to the measurable quantity of support for "Mission In Motion" is moving forward in commendable fashion.

However, there is one "indicator" that speaks in dramatic and positive fashion, and that is the increase in support for our connectional ministries. You are making a wonderful and inspiring witness! The increases have been remarkable! We are moving faithfully forward. I'm so proud of our congregations and our pastors, and so grateful to God to be on this journey with you.

Throughout last year, the Louisiana Conference benefitted greatly from what we called "Benchmarks for Apportionments." Again this year, we will be using this helpful guideline.

Our first "benchmark" will be May 31. On that day we will have completed 5/12 of our fiscal year. By bringing our total apportionments in each congregation to 5/12-status by May 31, every congregation can send its delegates to Annual Conference on a high, positive



Dan E. Solomon

note of solid support for outreach ministries.

I believe it is particularly important for every congregation that is experiencing a change in pastoral leadership to insure that the 5/12 benchmark is met. Lay leaders have a responsibility to insure that incoming pastors are not arriving in a congregation already behind on its outreach ministries. Likewise, pastors have a responsibility to their clergy covenant colleagues to have completed their fair share of the year's outreach "a portion meant for others."

Too often we fall into the trap of thinking about the "amount" of outreach ministries we are asked to meet, rather than the "lives"

of persons who are being "offered Christ" through these ministries. Across Louisiana and the world, persons are being brought to Christ, encountering hope and help, being fed and clothed, receiving the education essential for a sense of self-confidence and a way beyond poverty, and discovering that others care deeply for them because of the help that comes through our support of "a portion meant for others."

Let us unite our hearts and efforts to be sure that the 5/12 benchmark for our connectional ministries is met on May 31. We are always blessed when we offer Christ's blessing to others.

*Dan E. Solomon*

Dan E. Solomon

You are making a wonderful and inspiring witness!

## Round up those jeans for Denim Day!

What do Denim Day and Bishops' Initiatives have in common? A lot.

This year, the second year of Louisiana's participation in the Bishops' Initiative on "Children and Poverty," is focused on "youth." Louisiana youth wanted to give youth in need something that was a real part of their own lives. They chose jeans.

Just as last October, United Methodists in Louisiana collected tennis shoes for the children in Africa, this year, everyone is asked to contribute blue jeans. The jeans will be collected at the Gold Dome during Annual Conference and delivered

to the UMCOR Depot at Sager-Brown where they will be packed and shipped to those in need at home and abroad.

During Annual Conference, Tuesday, June 9, will be celebrated as Denim Day. Everyone attending Annual Conference is invited to wear denim that day as a reminder to pray and work for youth, especially for youth who have lives complicated by the cycle of poverty. It is also a reminder to bring jeans as an offering.

The jeans can be either new or if used—clean and in good repair. All sizes for children and youth (which would include adult sizes) will be accepted.



## Confirmation Day with the Bishop

Photos by Bob Armstrong, Dave Cavazos and Joy Solomon





## Reflections from our DS

This is the first of a series of news articles for the Acadiana District in a new format for our conference paper. Our thanks to the news staff at the conference office and to



Rev. Terry  
Willis

Judi Sarver, our district communicator for bringing this to fruition.

We are certainly living in exciting and challenging times. Our new District Mission Team has been selected and trained and we will soon be underway discovering new ways of bringing the gospel and raising up spiritual leaders and disciples for Jesus Christ. We are told that God makes all things new. I believe God is creating a new and wonderful thing, and is calling us to participate in this new creation, and work for the renewal and rejuvenation of the church.

It is obviously a time of anxiety as well, as we face some of the greatest changes and transformations in our own journey within the life of the church. There are enormous and challenging tasks before us. But we are children of faith, and thus our confidence lies in knowing that we are in His hands, and in our failures and in our successes, we must trust in the same Presence our forefathers trusted. There really isn't any other way.

As I look back on my own spiritual journey, I can see clearly how God has indeed directed my path. It is amazing how He has picked up the pieces of my life and made it complete. The journey has been rugged at times, but always exciting and rewarding. Had He told me what He had in mind for my life, I would not have believed it. I think that is true for the church. "Behold I make all things new."

Believe it! Embrace it!

## Happenings

### Friday, April 25

Lay-speaking Advanced Course  
9-5 First UMC, Houma  
(Registration, \$20) Contact:  
Tim Hebert (504) 868-5174

### Tuesday, April 28

Local pastors Spring Interviews  
Asbury UMC, Lafayette

### Tuesday, May 19

Clergy & Spouse Fellowship  
(Place and time TBA)

## We've a story to tell ...

The big day has finally arrived. This is the first issue of the Acadiana District News page in the *Louisiana Edition of the United Methodist Review*. What will it contain in the future? That depends wholly on what you think is important and needs to be told. Communication is a two way street. Someone needs to tell something and someone needs to hear it. Without both parties there is no communication.

Every minister in the District has received an invitation to contribute to this page. The responsibility is not theirs alone. Laity and

pastors both need to contribute. Let me know what is going on in your church community and local community. Let's spread the good news of what is going on in the lives of Methodists in Acadiana.

Articles and pictures can be sent to the District Office or to my home. Your minister has all the addresses and phone numbers.

Read and respond to what you see on this page and the other District pages. Let us know what you think and what you would like to see in the future issues.

Judi Sarver — Communication Advisor

## A Closer Look

### Louisiana Memorial hosted first Annual Conference

Opelousas Methodism in Louisiana dates back to 1806 when a Methodist Society was organized in Opelousas by Elisha Bowman. That first year, he accepted 17 members into the church.

When the Louisiana Conference was formed in 1847, the first Annual Conference was held at the Opelousas Methodist Church. The pastor of the Opelousas Church at that time was Rev. Gad Gilbert.

In 1955, a new church was built and renamed the Louisiana Memorial Church. The church was dedicated in November 1960 by Bishop Aubrey Walton.

Presently the church is under the ministry of Rev. Bill Youngblood. Proud of their traditions, the membership strives to be current and mission-oriented. The existing building has recently been painted inside and out. A new multi-purpose Fellowship Hall is to be built soon with new classrooms and nursery and a large activity room that will seat 200 around tables.

Louisiana Memorial UMC is proud of the way it is actively involved in the community of Opelousas. In addition to on-going programs like VITA (Volunteer Instructors Teaching Adults) sessions, a foster parents support group and the Kairos Prison Ministry, it recently held a Faith in Action Weekend



Louisiana Memorial UMC

with Rev. Chris Andrews, senior pastor, First UMC, Baton Rouge. During this time members participated in a variety of activities serving the community.

With an average attendance each Sunday of 140 people and 28 new members last year, this oldest of Methodist churches in the Louisiana Conference is still a vital and growing congregation.

## Nomads visit USL Wesley Foundation

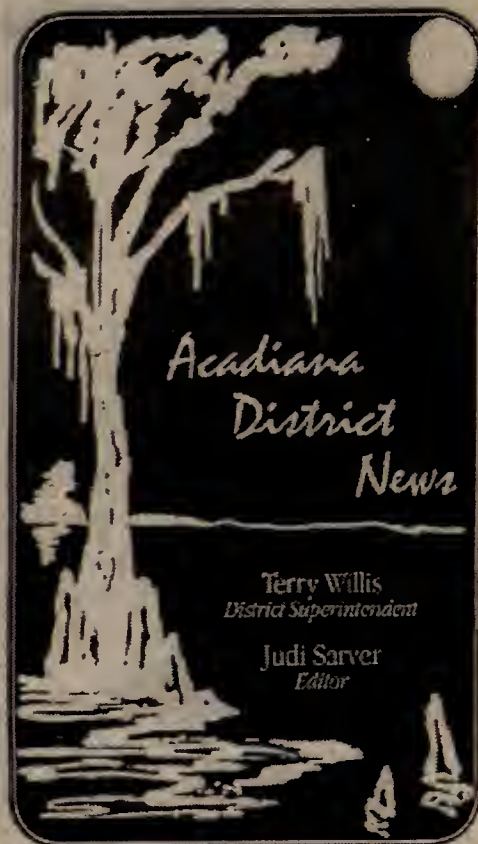


The Nomads (pictured above), a national organization of retirees who complete construction and repair projects at United Methodist churches and other facilities, descended on the University of Southwestern Louisiana's (Lafayette) Wesley Foundation in January.

During their three week stay, the group

refinished the stairwell, repainted the restrooms, replaced ceiling tiles on the second floor and reupholstered two sofas.

The five couples were from Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri and Louisiana and were representative of others who travel by RV, working all over the United States.



850 KALISTE SALOOM ROAD  
SUITE 217  
LAFAYETTE, LA 70508  
(318) 235-0080

## Acadiana DMT named

Under the leadership of Acadiana District Superintendent Terry Willis, the District Ministry Team (DMT) is now in place. The following have agreed to serve:

### District Lay Leader:

Jane Blackwell

### Trustees Representative:

Charles Ross

### Board of Church Extension:

Bob Sides

### Education Ministries Leader:

Evelyn Deich

### Renewal Ministries Leader:

Rev. Wybra Price

### Meditative Ministries Leader:

Nanci Youngblood

### Outreach Ministries Leader:

Sarah Schoeffler

### CFA Representative:

Charles Granstaff

### Communication Advisor:

Judi Sarver

### Youth Coordinator:

Michael Cockrell

### Youth Representative:

Chinise Pickney

### Values Team Representative:

Rev. Clifton Conrad

### At Large:

Linda Boswell

On February 26, the DMT participated in a training workshop at First UMC, New Iberia, conducted by Rev. Leslie Aiken, area director of Gospel Communications, and Dr. Rena Yocom, consulting director of Mission Resourcing.





# Alexandria District News



2013 MacArthur Drive  
Bldg.2, Suite 2  
Alexandria, LA 71301  
(318) 443-3213

**Dist. Superintendent**  
Rev. Don Avery  
**Communication Advisor**  
Leah Jackson

## From The D.S.

### The UNITY within commUNITY

by Rev. Don Avery  
Alexandria District  
Superintendent

"How do we build community?" was the first question that was raised as the Alexandria District Inclusivity Team met Feb. 17. This was a follow-up meeting to the "Weaving the Fabric" Seminar our District Inclusivity Team participated in on Nov. 1, 1997, which was led by Rev. Yolanda Pupo-Ortiz, staff-person from the General Commission on Religion and Race.

After approximately three years of talking about the Conference Inclusivity Plan, which was passed at last Annual Conference, how do we move beyond talking about inclusiveness into doing inclusiveness? This article is written for the purpose of raising questions in the hopes that we will give the questions earnest thought and sincere consideration as we move from talking to doing.

1. In our local churches and in our district, where are we now?

2. What can we do to facilitate the enjoyment of diversity where we really come to know and enjoy one another?

3. What kind of realistic needs are in our communities that, as we move in mission and ministry, reach beyond the walls of our local churches? (There are great mission opportunities which offer great opportunities for making new disciples for Christ, if we

would be willing to not accept any barrier. Two examples that readily come to mind are: a) Welfare to Work, particularly in light of the government's more strict regulations regarding welfare and its misuse; and b) Children in Need, particularly in light of the Bishops' initiative and the big conference that we had at Louisiana College just last year.)

4. How can we overcome our perceptions and our fears that prevent us from reaching out to those who are different from us?

5. Have you taken a serious look at the Inclusivity Plan, page 434-446, Louisiana Annual Conference Journal, 1997, and have you considered the implications of the plan for your local church?

These questions are raised in the hopes that thought, consideration, and discussion will occur within your local church as the goal of inclusiveness continues to be raised. While the District Inclusivity Team will continue to meet, our earnest hope is that we do not process, and process, and continue to process this very important matter and never move to the point of doing something about it. We all have mission opportunities! Many of our churches have engaged in pulpit exchanges and have worked on joint projects with churches of other races. It is time for us to move to the next step. It is time for us to realize that we cannot spell community without UNITY!

## A word from the DS

Dr. J. Lawrence Maddin

If I can do it, you can, too! I am as cyberspace-challenged as they come. Computer software that is labeled "user-friendly" was rated by someone much smarter than I.

I decided I would take the leap and buy a computer. I did an inordinate amount of research on what features I should seek, where I could get the best price and follow-up service, how I could learn to use it, etc. Fortunately, I was appointed to a church where there were several members who knew a good bit about computers. I took turns calling on them to ask for help, and they graciously agreed. The greatest challenge, and the greatest usage, of all was in the preparation of my doctoral dissertation.

And now, 10 years later, I enjoy "surfing the net" (though not as often as I would like to), visiting websites of churches and other resources, exchanging e-mail with family and friends on this continent and another,

checking local weather in cities where I will be the next day, etc. I understand that some conferences have gone to extensive use of e-mail to correspond with clergy and churches. I'm sure that we'll be listing our e-mail addresses in the Journal before long.

Our conference already has a website (<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/louisiana-conference>). The website for the Uskichitto Retreat Center is: <http://gbgmchurchesgbgm-umc.org/uskichitto>. Recently, we joined with the Acadiana and Alexandria Districts for a workshop on the Internet.

However, salvation will not come from cyberspace, as great as it is. Salvation will only come through Jesus Christ. Cyberspace may help us reach some people whom we would have difficulty reaching otherwise, but ultimately, we must count on the grace of God, found only through Jesus Christ.

Shalom!



# Lake Charles District News

816 Kirkman Street  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
(318) 439-2982

**District Superintendent**  
J. Lawrence Maddin  
**Communication Advisor**  
Susan Moore,

## DMT becoming intentional about mission

The District Ministry Team in the Alexandria District is becoming intentional about mission in every area of the church's ministry. The primary task of the DMT is to raise up spiritual leaders that make disciples for Jesus Christ. Using four major components of ministry (education, renewal, spiritual, outreach), the DMT will be asking each local church specific questions concerning each of these components in relation to mission. Specifically, in the education area the local church will be asked if a missionary has visited recently to share his/her experiences. In the renewal component, does the church welcome strangers with open arms so that the stranger immediately feels loved and welcomed? Scripture tells us we are to act humbly and work for justice. Are we allowing the Spirit to guide us in what we know is true by giving voice to the voiceless? Are we reaching out into our communities working in soup kitchens, food pantries, etc.?

It is our hope and prayer that each church in our district will become intentional about being obedient to the Spirit, focused on the task at hand, responsive to the needs of the community and active in working toward empowering others to be disciples of Jesus Christ. In the coming months, the DMT will be assisting each local church in becoming a ministry church.

In the near future, expect to hear more from the DMT as we shore up our team. Keep us in your prayers as we live our way into the bright and new day dawning in the Louisiana Conference. See you soon!

## Mission in Motion arrives in August

Has your church appointed its coordinator for the Mission in Motion ministry that is now in place and moving across the state gathering supplies for the UMCOR Depot? The truck will be in the Alexandria District in August. Contact the District Office or Mr. Elzie Gauntz, the District MIM coordinator, with the name of your church coordinator. It's not too early to begin making plans so when the truck arrives in August, we will be ready!



## Coming soon...

April 24-26

"Life After High School Retreat,"  
Uskichitto

April 28

Spring Ministry Interviews

May 4-7

"Light the Fire Again" Pastor's  
Conference, Pine Forest  
UMC, Pensacola, FL

May 9

"Renew Your Worship,"  
Shreveport Holiday Inn,  
Downtown

May 14

Alexandria District Ministers  
and Spouse Dinner, David  
Haas UMC, Bunkie, 6:30 p.m.

## Introducing our district missionary!

Mrs. Jean Foreman of Jennings has been named the first district missionary of the Lake Charles District.

Foreman is the surviving spouse of the late Rev. Doug Foreman. Following his death in 1995, she and their five sons returned to her home town, and she became active at First UMC in Jennings.

Responding to God's call to serve the churches of the district, she believes this opportunity is a unique way to connect churches with each other by sharing resources.

The duty of the district missionary is to lead a dedicated group of volunteers called the District Ministry Team. This team

serves as a network of resources, personnel and skills for the benefit of all churches in the district.

The DMT is prepared, trained, and available to come to your local church to assist your congregation in identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the people who serve in key positions. They also link resources together by using our connectional spirit.

Foreman, an educator and artist, is very excited about the DMT and the positive role it will have on the body of Christ. To find out how the DMT can help your church, can Jean at (318) 824-3992 Her e-mail address is [jean@bbs.snol.com](mailto:jean@bbs.snol.com).



Uskichitto Retreat  
Center Open House

May 2  
10 a.m.

Come enjoy a day filled with  
fun, games, swimming, food!

To submit news for this District Page, please send it to the District Office. Photos (color and b/w) are encouraged. Please include the who, what, when and why of the event. The deadline for the next page is APRIL 23.





## From the desk of the district superintendent ...

*Welcome to change!*

**Dr. Leslie Norris**  
District Superintendent

This is a time of tremendous movement and transformation for all of us in the Baton Rouge District. You have already noticed one change: this new District page in *The Louisiana United Methodist Review*, our Conference paper. About once every month, the Baton Rouge District will have its own full page of news, stories and photos of happenings in our local churches. Our thanks to the news staff, especially *Review* Editor Bobbie Armstrong, for helping bring this to pass.

We remember that God makes everything new, and at no time in recent memory has that truth been more evident than now. As part of a statewide reorganization of the Louisiana Conference, we now have in place an active and vibrant District Ministry Team which stands ready to bring the spirit of Jesus' love to all churches in our district. You will be hearing much more about this dedicated group of church leaders as they plan to reach out to each and every congregation in the district to help raise up spiritual leaders and bring the good news of the connectional church.

We recently hired our first district missionary, LaMarylis Cotten. LaMarylis is a member of Evangeline United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge. She will work part-time out of the District Office. At some point in the future, she will become a

full-time employee. She has already jumped in with both feet in helping coordinate the DMT's activities. I hope you all have a chance to meet her and feel her dedication and enthusiasm.

Of course, all change, even good change, inevitably elicits anxiety, apprehension and even fearfulness. Undoubtedly, we face daunting challenges in the months and years ahead as we participate and grow into this new faith journey. We do not know what the future holds for us, or what direction God will want for our district. But I have seen God's spirit working in this process. I know that God is helping us on this new journey in our church, that He has already directed us in our paths, just as He directs each of us in our own spiritual lives as His children.

So, I am excited! I am ready to start this new journey of faith! I know the future will have rough spots, but as we trust in God's love and presence, and in the living Spirit of Christ our Lord, working in, around and through each and every one of us, we can know that we will not travel alone. We never do, do we?

Join me in our journey. Pray with us, participate with us and change with us as we make our first steps forward, saying goodbye to the past and welcome to future, in Jesus' name as His loving disciples.

## A few FAQs about the DMT

The District Ministry Team (DMT) for the Baton Rouge District has been up and running for three months. As this new structure for the district evolves, United Methodists will have many questions about and for the DMT. Here are some of the more common:

### 1 What is the DMT and who is on it?

The DMT is a group of 12 United Methodists leaders, including the district superintendent and the district missionary (a part-time position), selected from throughout the Baton Rouge District. The Team was formed as part of an overall restructuring of the Louisiana Conference, approved at the 1997 Annual Conference. Each of the nine Louisiana districts has its own DMT.

### 2 What is the purpose of the Team?

The DMT will assist in revitalizing, planting and transforming local churches in the district. It will offer resources and services to all churches in these four general areas: education, renewal ministries, spiritual development and evangelism and missions.

### 3 How does it fit in within the structure of the district (and what does that mean for my church)?

The Team will serve as a direct contact group for all local churches. The goal is for each congregation to have access to the wide range of skills, talents and resources to help meet their specific needs and missions.

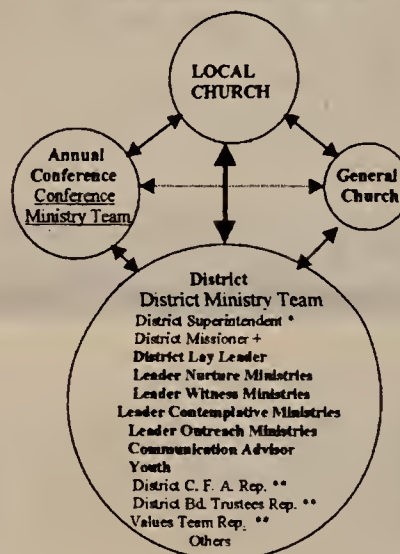
### 4 How will the DMT know about my specific church and our unique needs?

In the next several months, the DMT will contact each church in this district. The plan is for each church to receive an on-site visit from representatives of the DMT. They will be there to listen. They will learn what your church's strengths and areas of needs are and how they can help your church make disciples for Christ.

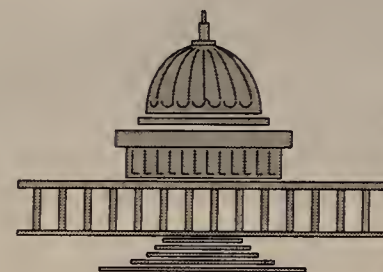
### 5 How can the DMT be contacted?

Through the District Missioner, who is employed on a part-time basis by the DMT to help organize and develop this ambitious project. The Baton Rouge DMT has just hired LaMarylis Cotten, a member of Evangeline UMC in Baton Rouge, as our missioner. She can be reached at the District office (504) 296-0668.

Diagram of Structure for the  
Louisiana United Methodist Conference



# Baton Rouge District News



5713 Superior Drive, Suite A-2  
Baton Rouge, LA 70816  
(504) 296-0668

**Dr. Leslie P. Norris,**  
District Superintendent

**Randy Griffith,**  
Communication Advisor

## The 1998 Baton Rouge District Ministry Team

**District Superintendent**

Dr. Leslie P. Norris

**District Missioner**

LaMarylis Cotten

**District Lay Leader**

Joyce Robinson

**Education Ministries**

**Leader**

Sue Catchings

**Renewal Ministries Leader**

Peggy Voth

**Meditative Ministries**

**Leader**

Debbie Drash

**Outreach Ministries Leader**

Myrtle Perkins

**Youth Representative**

Josh Tremblay

**Communications Advisor**

Randy Griffith

**Committee on Finance and Administration Rep.**

Rev. Don Hall

**Board of Church Locations and Church Extension**

Gordon Morris

**Conference Values Team Rep.**

Anica Doyle

**District Coordinator Youth Ministry**

Faye Ross

## How do I get my church news in the paper?

The new format for the *Review*, in which each district will have a page of news at regular intervals, means some changes for churches wanting news or stories publicized.

The Baton Rouge District will next have a page of news in *The Louisiana United Methodist Review* in the May 15 issue. We need your help to make it a success.

To submit articles, photos or stories for upcoming District pages, send pertinent information, including a contact person and phone number to Randy Griffith, Communication Advisor, Baton Rouge District, 5713 Superior Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70816. FAX: (504) 293-6551 or e-mail at: rrgriffith@msn.com.

## Broadmoor UMC in spring swing

Broadmoor UMC, Baton Rouge, is getting into the swing of Spring. On May 2, it will sponsor its annual Fun and Fellowship Spring Golf Classic at the Louisiana State University Golf Course.

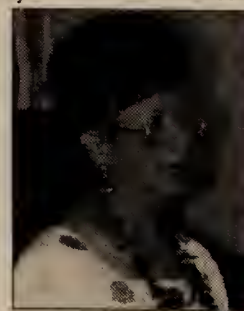
The fun begins at noon with lunch and a putting contest. Play begins at 1:15 p.m.



On Saturday, March 14, 30 lay speakers assembled early in the morning at Camp Istrouma to participate in the second annual Lay Speakers Retreat for the Baton Rouge District.

Representing the span of the district, from Donaldsonville to Clinton, attendees fellowshiped over coffee, juice and Danish before settling down to a full day of activity.

The group was brought together by Hallique Dawson, a member of Camphor UMC and coordinator of the Lay Speakers Retreat Steering Committee. Mrs. Dawson welcomed the group and Cathy Rando, Evangeline UMC, offered an invocation. Carolyn (Cee Cee) Ross entertained the participants with her humor and held them captivated through her testimony and witness as a layperson, now ministerial candidate for the UMC.



**Hallique Dawson**

The day included a panel discussion on the use of lay speakers followed by small group discussions on "Communicating," "Caring" and "Leading." Each group had consultants within it who inspired and steered the discussions. District Superintendent, Dr. Leslie Norris, visited each group and participated in the lively discussions.

After a lunch break each group gave a presentation on its discussion, bringing new insight to the term "lay speaker" and offering expanded possibilities for ministry for both clergy and laypersons.

Myrtle Perkins, Camphor UMC, offered closing remarks. Dr. Norris officially ended the day with uplifting comments and a benediction.

The Retreat was a huge success. The third annual retreat will be even better.





# Monroe District News



909 North 18th Street  
Suite 206  
Monroe, LA 70201  
(318) 387-7364

**District Superintendent**  
Rev. Marie Williams  
**Communication Advisor**  
Betty S. Martin

## The 1998 Monroe District Ministry Team

**District Missioner**  
Fred Fulton (Lea Joyner)  
**District Lay Leader**  
Harold LaGrone (McGuire)  
**Trustees Representatives**  
Rev. Larry Stafford  
(FUMC Monroe)  
Rev. Mark Strickland  
(St. Mark's)  
**CFA Representative**  
Rev. Bill Willie (Northeast  
Campus Ministries)  
**Education Ministries Leader**  
Halette Elrod (Tallulah)  
**Renewal Ministries Leader**  
Jean Elliott (McGuire)  
**Meditative Ministries Leader**  
Shirley M. Wall (Rayville)  
**Outreach Ministries Leader**  
Denny Garner (McGuire)  
**Communication Advisor**  
Betty Martin  
(FUMC Winnsboro)  
**Youth Representative**  
Ginny Willis (McGuire)  
**Youth Coordinators**  
Doret Gilbert-Wilson (Hope)  
Ellen Bowen (McGuire)  
**Values Team Representative**  
Jo Traweek (McGuire)

## Fulton named district missioner

The Monroe District has its first district missioner! Fred Fulton grew up in the McGuire UMC in West Monroe and graduated from West Monroe High School in 1969. From there he attended Tabor College, where he graduated in 1973 with a double major in Bible and social science divisional with a concentration in psychology.

After graduation, Fred worked in the mental health field in a long-term care facility, eventually serving as activities director. As program director for a transitional living facility, Fred authored a treatment program for the facility. He also conducted group and family counseling. Fred also has been in the construction business, building residential homes in the Monroe area. He is presently employed by the Lea Joyner UMC, where he is youth director and a prospective members visitor. He has two sons, three and five years of age.

Fred views one of his strengths as his love for people. This is evidenced through his warm

personality, which begins with his captivating smile. That is further accentuated by his sense of humor and ability to make people feel at ease in his presence. He characterizes himself as a good listener who just likes "being with people." Additionally, he is creative and driven to see things accomplished.



Fred believes that the church needs to get outside its walls to share the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ, while at the same time, being revitalized from within. He is one who is willing to "put his money where his mouth is" as he steps out in faith on this journey as our district missioner.

Fred says that he has received a call to the ministry and is in the process of clarifying that call as he goes through the candidacy process. We welcome him as our missioner and look forward to working with him in the Monroe District. To contact Fred, call Lea Joyner UMC at (318) 343-0073 or the District Office at (318) 387-7364.

## Laity urged to 'Come Alive, evangelize' at banquet

"Come Alive, Evangelize!" was the theme of the 1998 Monroe District Laity Banquet, held March 20 at McGuire UMC in West Monroe. District Lay Leader Harold LaGrone presided at the program attended by approximately 320 laity and clergy.

Jack Dew, a member of Faith UMC in West Monroe, was the guest speaker. Jack has been at the forefront of the effort to empower and involve the laity in meaningful ministry and for many years has been a leader in the Lay Witness Movement in the Louisiana Conference, in other states, and even other countries. He has also served The United Methodist Church as delegate to the Annual Conference, the Jurisdictional Con-

ference and the General Conference.

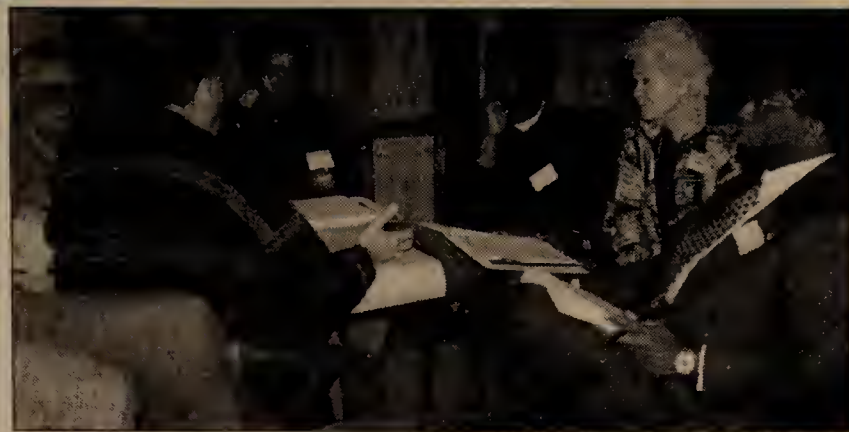
District Superintendent Marie Williams gave an update on the Mission in Motion program of gathering relief supplies for UMCOR's depot at Sager-Brown in Baldwin. Its 40-foot, 18-wheel tractor-trailer is slated to itinerate in the Monroe District for the month of May.

Reports on the Daughenbaugh-Matheny Scholarship, missions and Shalom Zone, were presented by Marie Young, Rev. Mark Strickland and Calvin Jordan, respectively.

Entertainment was provided by the choir of McGuire UMC under the direction of Mayor Dave Norris and Mrs. Dave Norris, pianist.

## Eight couples renew vows at Winnsboro UMC

A Wedding Vow Renewal Service and banquet was held Feb. 13 at the Winnsboro First United Methodist Church in celebration of Valentine's Day. Rev. Charles Langford, pastor, officiated at the service for the eight couples who participated. Pictured (below) in the sanctuary of the church from left to right are Mike and Donna Tucker, Bo and Jean Fletcher, John and Brenda Struth, Kelly and Carol Martin, Charlie and Beverly Langford, Johnny and Susan Boothe, Rudy and Ann McIntyre, Eulas and Debbie Foster.



## Shalom is on the loose!

by Jim Moore  
St. James UMC, Monroe

Peace, health, wholeness, prosperity, safety, justice, harmony and completeness are all interpretations of the Biblical word, "shalom." The Monroe District, having been approved by the General Board of Global Ministries as a Shalom Zone site, is making plans to give life to some of these meanings.

Three churches, Hope UMC and St. James UMC in Monroe, and Mt. Olive UMC in Bastrop, have established Shalom Zones or Communities of Shalom within definite areas surrounding their churches and have recently completed training through a series of sessions led by Rev. Dorsey Walker, General Board of Global Ministries representative, and Dr. Alonzo Campbell, Louisiana Conference Shalom Zones coordinator. Members of some other churches in the area also participated.

In forming mission and vision

statements, "relationships" is an important word. Goals deal with such realistic concerns as employment, literacy, crime, housing, beautification and environmental stewardship. With training completed, the groups will begin to apply valuable knowledge and insight gained in the training sessions. Great things can be expected to happen.

An initiative of The United Methodist Church, the concept of Shalom Zones began with the efforts of our church to reach out and bring healing after the 1992 Los Angeles riots. It has now spread to urban and rural areas across the U.S. "Assets based" rather than "needs based," it draws on the potentials of individuals, organizations and institutions within the community, interacting to bring out the best for all involved.

As one person commented during the training, "Wouldn't it be great if our whole country were a Community of Shalom?"

## Coming Events...

April 24-26 Retreat for College Bound seniors  
(Uskitchitto Retreat Center, Kinder, LA)  
April 25 District Youth Sports Day, 10 a.m. First UMC, Monroe  
April 26 DMT Training, 2 p.m., First UMC Rayville  
April 27 Board of Ministry Spring Interviews  
April 30 Spring Senior Citizens' Day, Caney Conference Centre  
May 16 Jubilee! Caney Conference Centre, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

## Alive and Growing

### First United Methodist Church of West Monroe

On Feb. 22, a service of dedication represented a very special and historic time in the life of First UMC of West Monroe. It also demonstrated a people working together in joy and celebration. Very Jordan chaired the event, and with her attention to detail, every age group and segment of the congregation participated.

All groups in the music ministry performed so well that they brought applause and praise from Bishop Dan Solomon. And the children — our future — brought tugs to our heartstrings.

In his sermon, Bishop Solomon described and defined a church that is "Alive and Growing." His words made a strong impact on the 450-plus persons who heard them.

Following the sermon, smiles

and applause erupted when past Building Committee Chairman, Bob Kennedy, burned the mortgage.

Those who attended will always remember the beautiful flowers, the music, the bells, the children, the youth, the note burning—and they will continue to cherish Bishop Solomon's thoughts on how to be a church that is "Alive and Growing."

### Saturday Night Contemporary Service

As a result of looking into the needs of our community and how we can best meet them, First UMC also began a six-month experimental Contemporary Service on the first Saturday night of the month at 6:30. The evening is filled with praise, drama and worship; we encourage everyone to come and invite your neighbor!

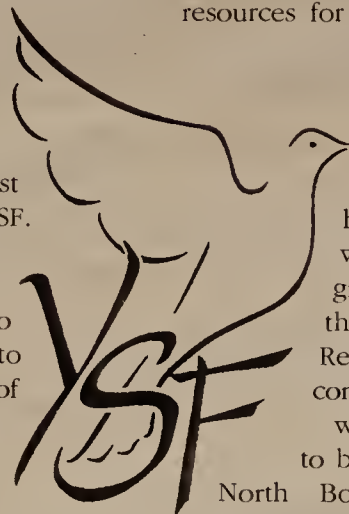


## Celebrate YSF Sunday May 3

### Honor someone through Youth Recognition

Youth Service Fund (YSF) is a mission fund raised by United Methodist Youth, distributed by youth, for youth who are in poverty, in jail, abused, hungry, and without faith or love.

Last year United Methodist Youth nationwide raised about half a million dollars. In Louisiana in 1997, United Methodist Youth raised \$8,228.73 for YSF. Recipients of the YSF grants for 1998 were Epiphany Ministries, Inc. (designed to bring Jesus Christ to incarcerated youth of Louisiana), Hope's Impact Teen Theater in Monroe (an interactive theater program), Trinity United Methodist Church's youth building in Baldwin, Harvest of Hope in Mer Rouge (gleaning of food fields), and Oaklawn United Methodist Church in Hot Springs, Arkansas (Window to the World Missions trip). Two additional grants were given to the Owl Center at the Children's Home in Ruston, Louisiana and Seminario Juan Wesley in Monterrey, Mexico.



An offering may be accepted on May 3, or any other Sunday your church designates as YSF Sunday, to help supply the Youth Service Fund with the needed resources for funding additional grants.

Offering envelopes may be ordered from Carolyn Dove at the Conference Office.

If you would like to honor someone in a special way, why not consider giving a gift to missions in the form of "A Youth Recognition." Send your contribution of \$20 or more with the name of the youth to be recognized, to YSF, 527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802-5700. Please make your check payable to the Louisiana Annual Conference and note YSF. A certificate of recognition will be sent to the honoree.

If you need additional information please contact Carolyn Dove, director of Youth Ministry for the Louisiana Annual Conference, at (888) 239-5286.

## ♦♦♦ You should know ♦♦♦

NEW YORK (UMNS)—Funds are available to assist United Methodist churches, districts or annual conferences in conducting their own dialogues on theological diversity.

The United Methodist Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns here has established a fund of \$20,000 for such a purpose.

The Rev. Bruce Robbins, general secretary, explained that the fund helps the commission fulfill its commitment to bring the recommendations of the "In Search of Unity" document to wider church attention.

Grant application forms are being sent to all bishops. Forms also are available by contacting the commission office at

475 Riverside Drive, Room 1300, New York, NY 10115. The telephone number is (212) 870-3800.

♦♦♦

As God's children, we have the responsibility to make sure everyone's voice is not only heard, but listened to as well. If we truly believe that diversity is our strength, we must make an effort to learn from and support groups which are not part of the dominant society.

Native American Sunday does just that. Through the special offering shared this year on April 26, United Methodists have the opportunity to express our heartfelt commitment to the Christian faith by giving generously on Native American Awareness Sunday.—UMNS

## Seven district missionaries in place, setting pace

Once again, Louisiana Annual Conference is a pace setter for the nation. Armed with a new model and process for assisting local congregations to be energized for mission, seven district missionaries are now at work with district ministry teams, meeting with congregations one by one.

The meetings will encourage the congregational leaders to celebrate their gifts and strengths, see new challenges for their own ministry, and invite them to be a "servant" church, assisting other congregations who express a need for mentoring and support.

Currently, the district missionaries, pictured right, top row to bottom row, left to right, are: Linda Boswell (Acadiana); Fred Fulton (Monroe); Betsy Eaves (Shreveport); Sheri Zehner (North Shore); Jean Foreman (Lake Charles); ; Verna Myers (Ruston) and LaMarylis Cotten (Baton Rouge).



## DISCIPLE Bible Study Training returns to Louisiana Conference

DISCIPLE Bible Study Training Seminar is returning to the Louisiana Annual Conference this summer.

It will be held in Baton Rouge Aug. 27-29. The

three-day session offers quality training with active participation, valuable hands-on experience with the DISCIPLE resource and special break-away sessions for leaders of Into the Word, Into the World and Remember Who You Are!

The initial training fee is \$650 for an initial group of 12 (including room, meals, training and materials). Each additional person added to that group is \$250.

Scholarships will be available. Contact Shirlene Spears, conference coordinator, at (888) 329-5286 for details.

You can register or receive additional information on-line by contacting DISCIPLE at their website: [www.cokesbury.org/col/](http://www.cokesbury.org/col/).

## UMCOR Depot needs Louisiana volunteers

The UMCOR Depot at the Sager-Brown facility in Baldwin is in urgent need of volunteers to work in the warehouse.

With Louisiana's Mission in Motion and other disaster-relief efforts, the need is great for hands-on help at the depot.

Why not commit your church to a day at the depot? It can be a great way to fellowship and mission, plus the depot provides a meal at a very low cost.

Contact Ginny Krider, volunteer coordinator for UMCOR Sager-Brown, at (800) 814-8765 to schedule a day soon.

## Louisiana churches support The Advance

Your church is already a mission church! By paying your World Service apportionment, conference benevolence and other apportioned funds, your church helps support United Methodist missionaries in over 100 countries around the world.

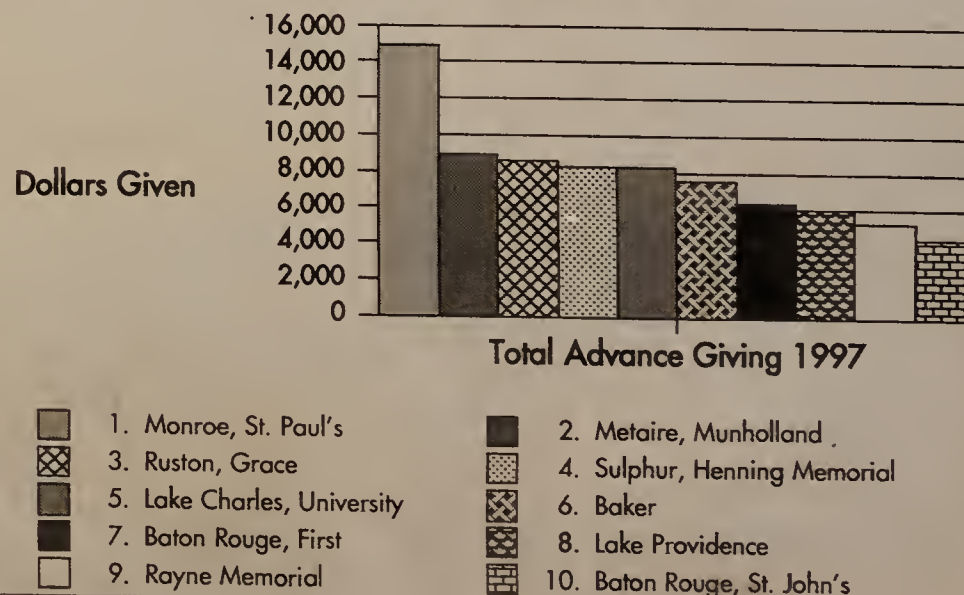
Through The Advance for Christ and His Church, you have another opportunity to share your faith in the power of God's love, another chance to give to specific ministries in specific places of interest to you. The combined giving of the 17 conferences of the South Central Jurisdiction was \$2,797,085 to The Advance in 1997 with \$505,840

going to projects inside the United States, \$1,147,694 to projects outside the United States and \$1,143,551 to The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

The Louisiana Conference contributed \$193,544 to The Advance in 1997. This included \$9,088 to projects inside the United States, \$85,773 to projects outside the United States and \$98,682 to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

CONGRATULATIONS to the top giving churches as shown in the chart right.

## 1997 Top Ten Churches





**AROUND THE CONFERENCE**  
**NEWS**

### In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to: Mrs. Jane Eubanks, wife of Rev. William Eubanks, pastor, First UMC, Hammond, on the death of her mother, Mrs. Maine Newton, March 31. Services were held for her April 3.

the family of Mrs. Susie Y. London, surviving spouse of Rev. William R. London (Baton Rouge District), who died April 1. Her funeral was held April 6 in Los Angeles.

Mr. Elvin Johnson, husband of Rev. Dorothy W. Johnson, pastor, Wilton UMC (Alexandria District), who died March 28. Her funeral was conducted April 1 at Wilton UMC by Rev. Donald Avery, district superintendent of the Alexandria District.

Mrs. Earline Friedrich, wife of Rev. Roland Friedrich, retired (Alexandria District), on the death of her brother, Mr. Roy Romerhouser. His funeral was held March 30 at Munholland UMC in Metairie.

Mrs. Earline Herr, wife of Rev. Cleveland Ben Herr, Jr., retired (New Orleans District), on his death April 8. His funeral was held April 10 at Gretna UMC.

Mrs. Phyllis Ross, wife of Rev. George Ross, retired (Texas Conference) on his death March 31. Rev. Ross served 24 years in the Louisiana Conference.

CONFERENCE OFFICE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER 1-888-239-5286

**Louisiana Conference Edition of the United Methodist Review**  
Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

**EDITORIAL TEAM:**  
Leslie N. Akin, Director, Gospel Communications  
Bobbie Armstrong, Editor  
Dr. Alonzo J. Campbell, Liz Lucas

Subscriptions \$12.50 per year  
Send subscriptions, news and information to:

Editor  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
1(888) 239-5286  
(504)346-1646, (504)383-2652 fax  
e-mail: laumc@premier.net

#### On the Web

The Louisiana Annual Conference has a newly revised homepage. You can find us at

<http://www.gbgn-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>

**DEADLINE FOR:**  
May 1 Issue-April 20

## Important Announcement

**Annual Conference dates:**  
**June 8-11, 1998**

The current conference year ends June 15, 1998. The new conference year begins June 16, 1998. Pastors going to new appointments will move June 16, 1998.

### Harvest of Hope needs you

If you are at least a senior high youth and have been to Harvest of Hope, consider taking your hunger education a step further by participating in Phase II in Washington, D.C. this summer.

Phase II will be held June 27-July 4 and involves meeting with legislators, working in urban ministry and taking hunger discussions to a deeper level.

If you are interested, contact Society of St. Andrew at (800) 333-4597.

Uskichitto Retreat Center  
LeBlanc, LA 70651

### Summer Camp Schedule

|                                                  |                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Pre-Camp Discovery</b><br>(2nd or 3rd Grade)  | <b>July 13-15</b>                      |
| <b>Upper Elem. Camps</b><br>(4th or 5th Grade)   | <b>June 22-26</b><br><b>July 20-24</b> |
| <b>Junior High Camp</b><br>(6th, 7th, 8th Grade) | <b>Jun29-July2</b>                     |
| <b>Canoe Adventure</b>                           | <b>July 16-18</b>                      |

### August ride-in will share joys of Methodist motorcycling

Jump on your Harley and join us at the Conference Center for a ride-in being planned for any United Methodist who is a motorcycle enthusiast.

Rev. John Lord, Sicily Island-Harrisonburg charge, and Rev. Judy Shema, campus minister at Tulane, both avid motorcyclists, are planning a three-day retreat Aug. 13-15 for Christian fellowship and sharing the joys of motorcycling.

If you are interested in attending, have an idea for the retreat, or just want more information, call Judy at (504) 866-8681.



*Ninety-six year old Lena McLin, Pine Grove UMC, enjoys riding her great nephew's Harley. Watch for her story in the North Shore District News in the next issue of the LUM Review.*

### Your church can still sign up for teleconference!

Attention all churches! You can still sign up to be a downlink site for an important satellite teleconference coming this spring. On Tuesday, May 5, "IT TAKES A CHILD...To see what really matters in the world, To be open to the power of God's love and spirit" will be broadcast live and free from 7-8:30 p.m.

A joint venture between the Bishops' Initiative on Children & Poverty and the UM Teleconference Connection, the teleconference will celebrate and challenge us about children and poverty. Participants will include Bishop Marshall Meadors, Jr., chair of the Bishops' Initiative; Bishop Kenneth L. Carder and

Peggy Halsey, from the GBGM. Garlinda Burton, editor of Interpreter magazine, will moderate.

In order to assure that as many people as possible in Louisiana participate in this event, the Conference Office would like to know which churches have the capabilities to be a downlink site. Sites need C-Band satellite downlink capabilities and a TV or video monitor. A direct-line telephone in the viewing room will allow you to participate in the call-in segments, but it is not essential.

If you can be a downlink site, please let your district office know as soon as possible or contact Bobbie Armstrong at the Conference Office (888-239-5286).

## Conference Program Calendar

#### April

|         |                                           |
|---------|-------------------------------------------|
| 19-24   | VIM Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference |
| 20-24   | VIM Rio Bravo, Mexico                     |
| 25-May1 | Council of Bishops                        |
| 27-29   | Spring Interviews for Local Pastors       |
| 30-May3 | Cursillo #64, Louisiana Conference Center |
| 30-May3 | VIM Nuevo Progreso, Mexico                |

#### May

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 2 | Seminar: Building Loving & Lasting |
|---|------------------------------------|

|       |                                                                       |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|       | Relationships, Trinity UMC, Ruston, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.                     |
| 3     | YSF Sunday                                                            |
| 4     | Annual Louisiana Clergy Open, Rapides Golf & Country Club, Alexandria |
| 11-13 | Cabinet Meeting                                                       |
| 14-17 | UMW Assembly, Orlando, Fla.                                           |
| 30    | Conference Center Meeting                                             |
| 31    | Cabinet Meeting                                                       |

#### June

|     |                                  |
|-----|----------------------------------|
| 5-6 | DCYM Training, Conference Center |
|-----|----------------------------------|

## NOTEWORTHY . . .

**Pendelton Memorial Methodist Hospital** will host its **Fourth Annual Daffodil Tea** in the Blue Room of the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans on Wed., **May 13**, at 12 noon. This unique event will feature performances by talented area high school seniors who are award recipients of Overture to the Cultural Season's Arts Scholarship Program. Fashions, presented by Annette Wood, featuring The Worth Collection, will also be a feature of this event.

The tea will benefit two not-for-profit organizations, Overture to the Cultural Season's Arts Scholarship Program and the Methodist Cancer Center, who have joined together to gain exposure for their causes. Contact Leif Pedersen at (504) 244-5200 for ticket information.

The **1998 Tom Peyton Memorial Arts Festival "Rejoicing in Art,"** will begin Friday, **May 1** at 7 p.m. and run through May 10 at First UMC in Alexandria. In addition to the art competition and show, this year's event will feature a taste of Cajun-French and Zydeco music Saturday evening at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium. This unique entertainment will be provided by "Richard Lebouef and Two Step," from Lafayette.

In keeping with the combined Arts and Music theme, Dr. Henry Blount, resident artist and former pastor of FUMC, will speak on "Rejoicing In Art" at the 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. worship services on Sunday, May 3. A "Celebration of Music" will be presented by an ecumenical choir at 3 p.m.

"Asian Arts" will be featured as a special exhibit throughout the festival. Artists from throughout the South will have their finest works on display. Artwork by students from Alexandria Senior High and Bolton High schools also will be featured.

All festival events are free and open to the public. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. through 5 p.m., Saturday, May 2 through Sunday, May 10. Please call Barbara Wildman at (318) 442-5023 for more information.

On Saturday, April 25, **Henning Memorial UMC**, Sulphur, will participate in **Christmas in April**, a community-wide, one-day blitz to repair and improve homes of low-income, elderly and disabled people in the area.

If you have a skill you would like to share, please join them in helping their neighbors. Everyone who works on a home will receive a T-shirt and there will be picnic for all volunteers at the end of the day.

To sign up, contact Nancy Peace at (318) 625-2700 or Tara Lavergne at (318) 527-6970. Help someone celebrate Christmas this April!



Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
 Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
 527 North Boulevard  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
 504.346.1646  
 /504.383.2652 fax

018000

Send PS Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

Vol 15 No 10 ■ May 1, 1998

# Get Ready! Louisiana Annual Conference 1998

One generation shall tell another the mighty acts of God. Psalms 145:4

It's almost here again...that exciting time in the United Methodist year: Annual Conference. This year's big event will take place June 8-11 at Centenary College in Shreveport.

There's lots to get ready for. Watch your mailboxes, Annual Conference delegates. Pre-conference packets have been sent and should be arriving at your door by mid-May. The packets contain

information concerning registration, housing, meals, banquets, boards and committees of the Annual Conference. Mark your calendars and bring your packets with you to the district pre-conference training sessions listed below.

This year's conference will feature numerous opportunities for mission, worship, Bible study, alternative communion services, a celebration of the

50th anniversary of The Advance for Christ and His Church as well as the annual episcopal address by Bishop Dan Solomon and lay address by Fred Loy, lay leader.

If you are not a delegate, but would like to receive a copy of the pre-conference report, contact Shirleen Spears at the Conference Office. See you at Annual Conference!

## Don't forget ...

### VIM Takin' It to the Streets

Beginning the Friday night before Annual Conference, a VIM initiative for serving the Shreveport community will begin. Activities include building a Habitat for Humanity house, serving in a soup kitchen and other ministries.

Delegates can participate in these events prior to the beginning of the sessions. Bring family or friends to continue the mission during Annual Conference sessions.

Two new events have been added to the agenda: 1) a revival at Mt. Zion UMC in Bossier City at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 6 and 2) a block party Monday, June 8 from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the area around the Hospitality House soup kitchen.

Contact Rev. Tracy MacKenzie at (318) 527-5483 or Dr. Alonzo Campbell at (888) 239-5286 for more information.

## Round up your jeans for Denim Day



Celebrate Denim Day, Tuesday, June 9, during Annual Conference by

wearing denim and bringing denim for those in need.

Denim Day is a reminder to pray and work for youth in this, our second year of participation in The Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty. The denim collected at Annual Conference will be distributed by UMCOR to children in need here and abroad.

## Pre-conference Training Sessions Schedule

| DATE   | DISTRICT     | TIME      | LOCATION                          |
|--------|--------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| May 14 | North Shore  | 7 p.m.    | FUMC, Hammond                     |
| May 14 | Ruston       | 7 p.m.    | Trinity UMC, Ruston               |
| May 14 | Shreveport   | 7 p.m.    | Noel UMC, Shreveport              |
| May 17 | Acadiana     | 4 p.m.    | Church of the Covenant, Lafayette |
| May 17 | Lake Charles | 3 p.m.    | University UMC, Lake Charles      |
| May 18 | Alexandria   | 6:30 p.m. | FUMC, Alexandria                  |
| May 19 | New Orleans  | 6:30 p.m. | Lake Vista UMC                    |
| May 21 | Baton Rouge  | 6:30 p.m. | University UMC                    |
| May 24 | Monroe       | 3 p.m.    | Rayville UMC                      |

## Handy praised as 'gift from God' in Louisiana memorial

On Saturday, April 18, a memorial service was held at Lawless Chapel, Dillard University, New Orleans, to celebrate the life and ministry of Bishop W. T. Handy, Jr. Bishop Handy was a son of the Louisiana United Methodist parsonage and a graduate of Dillard University. He died on Easter Sunday, April 12, at age 74, of a heart attack shortly after attending worship services in Nashville.

Among those paying tributes were Bishop Dan Solomon; Bishop Frederick "Fritz" Mutti, president of the South Central College of Bishops; Tom Matheny, president of the Louisiana Conference Board of Trustees; and several bishops with Louisiana origins including Alfred Norris (Northwest Texas/New Mexico Area), Melvin Talbert (San Francisco Area), Wood-

row Hearn (Houston area) and Ben Oliphant (retired). Musical tributes were offered by jazz musician Ellis Marsallis and a combined

choir from Mt. Zion and Bethany United Methodist Churches in New Orleans.

Over and over in both the tributes and informal conversations, one could hear Handy described as a gift from God, nurtured through Louisiana Methodism. He personified "connectionalism" at its best; he never lost touch with the people whose lives and ministry had been



Bishop W.T. Handy, Jr.

touched by his own. Handy will be remembered as a faithful servant of God, a willing servant of the church and a compassionate champion of the people.

W. T. Handy, Jr. gave crucial leadership at the time of integration and merger of the Louisiana and Central Conferences, and through twenty-five years as chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry. He served as pastor of Newman UMC, Alexandria; St. Mark UMC, Baton Rouge and as district superintendent of the Baton Rouge-Lafayette District. He gave leadership to the whole of Methodism with his term of service as the first black named to a high-ranking position at the United Methodist Publishing House in Nashville and as episcopal leader for twelve years in Missouri.

The Handy family has requested memorial gifts be given to the Handy Scholarship Fund at Dillard University.

United Methodist News Service contributed to this story.

INSIDE

- 2 Mother's Day Methodist
- 2 Being and Doing
- 3 New Orleans District
- 4 North Shore District
- 5 Ruston District
- 6 Shreveport District
- 7 A Word to Witness:  
A pattern for prayer
- 7 Moments in Mission
- 8 Spice up your life





## Being and Doing

### Spiritual Refreshment for Spiritual Leaders

Who shepherds the shepherd? Who cooks for the cook? Who gives care to the caregiver? Who provides spiritual nourishment to the providers?

Far from being speculative questions, these inquires are, as every "person under appointment" knows, questions that speak to the heart, mind and spirit of all spiritual leaders.

All of us stand in need of spiritual renewal, none more so than those called and set apart by the church to provide spiritual nourishment for others. Persons called upon to provide spiritual leadership are called, first, to their own faithful, daily walk with God, and then also, to a vocation of ministry to help others. No one of us can fulfill such a calling without daily spiritual renewal, as well as special times set apart to focus intentionally on God's refreshing grace.

An event for all "persons under appointment" (local pastors, elders, deacons, probationers, diaconals) has been set for January 25, 26, 27, 1999. Leading the event will be Dr. Norman Shawchuck, internationally acclaimed retreat leader. The event will be held at the Louisiana Conference Center, along with auxiliary hotels.

It is my expectation and hope that every "person under appointment" in the Louisiana Conference will attend. Registration for the "Persons Under Appointment" Spiritual Renewal Retreat will begin at the forthcoming session of the Annual Conference.

There is no doubt in my mind that our laity believe in the importance of spiritual renewal experiences. Cursillo and Walk to Emmaus provide ample evidence. There is also no doubt in my mind that our laity want to support their



Dan E. Solomon

"shepherds" in being ministered to and blessed by God's renewing grace and power.

Each congregation, through its Pastor-Parish Chair, will receive from me a request to assist in the funding of the attendance of all "persons under appointment" related to their congregation. Because we are holding the event at the Conference Center, our costs will be quite reasonable. Specific cost and retreat details will be available at Annual Conference.

It is my conviction that this Spiritual Renewal Retreat will prove to be a remarkable "centering" of the lives of those in attendance in the presence and power of

God, as well as a firm strengthening of faith and calling. "Persons under appointment" will be blessed by this event. Louisiana United Methodism will be impacted and empowered by this event. A great blessing, a great joy, and a great spiritual vitality will flow from this event.

To prepare for this event, I am asking our "persons under appointment" and our congregations to:

- Protect these dates on personal and church calendars.
- Be prepared to respond favorably to the request to assist in the funding.
- Pray individually and as congregation and conference groups that God's refreshing grace and mighty power will dominate this event and our life together.

Dan E. Solomon

*Louisiana United Methodism will be impacted and empowered by this event.*

## Ruston Children's Home receives second EAGLE accreditation

Louisiana Methodist Children's Home, a multi-service adolescent care community and family service organization in Ruston, has been granted a second, successive EAGLE accreditation from the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries.

Making the presentation (photo right) to Terrel J. DeVille (left), executive director of the Children's Home, at UMA's recognition dinner March 13 in Chicago is Rev. James E. Tallman, chair of the EAGLE Accreditation Committee.



## CONNECTED THROUGH 'A PORTION MENT' FOR OTHERS How Centenary changed my life!

by Tammie Mayo  
First UMC, Lake Charles

Four of the best years of my life were spent at Centenary College in Shreveport! Centenary truly changed my life. I believe I am who I am today in part because of my experiences at Centenary.

Centenary's small classes and personable professors who invited students to their homes and participated in campus life made me feel that I was in a new family. How nice to have that kind of relationship with professors. It sure made a difference when it came time to approach them with a study question, etc. It provided a forum in which to approach them with real-life questions, too.

Dorm life was great at Centenary also. If you did not know someone by name, you surely knew them by face. These people I passed on campus were the same people with whom I shared a "house," shared meals, shared classrooms, shared on-campus worship experiences and, most importantly, shared similar life experiences. For this reason, some of these people are my life-



Tammie Mayo

long friends, different from any others in my life.

Having been a member of the Centenary College Choir added immensely to my Centenary experience. The traveling was spectacular and afforded me once-in-a-lifetime experiences

for which I am ever grateful. But, even aside from that, the choir instilled in me a pride that I had never known before. "Singing Ambassadors" we truly were and Centenary College was our message.

Centenary's campus is beautiful and enhancements continue to happen there. I am very proud of my affiliation with Centenary, as I am sure are most of its alumni. But, I can also honestly say that had it not been for Centenary College, I would not be the person I am today. I received a topnotch, well-rounded education both in and out of the classroom.

Thank you, Centenary! Thank you, United Methodist Church, for establishing and supporting Centenary. Thank you, Louisiana Conference, for being sure that "a portion meant for others" is making such a vital difference at our wonderful Centenary!

## Mother of Mother's Day was Methodist

*As you celebrate Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, here's an interesting story from United Methodist News Service:*

The celebration of Mother's Day can be traced back to ancient Greece, but the mother of Mother's Day in the United States was Ann Marie Reeves Jarvis, the wife of a Methodist pastor in West Virginia.

Her daughter, Anna, led a successful campaign in the early 1900s to have Mother's Day recognized as a national holiday.

Anna was not quite two-years old when her family moved to Grafton, four miles south of Webster, W.Va. According to historical records, Anna heard her mother express hope that a memorial would be established for all mothers, living and dead.

After the death of her father in 1902, Anna--along with her mother and sister, Lillie--moved to Philadelphia to reside with her brother, Claude. After Ann's death May 9, 1905, Anna began an intense campaign to fulfill the wish of her mother.

On May 10, 1908, the third anniversary of Ann's death, a program was held at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton and in Philadelphia, launching the observance of a general memorial day for all mothers.

Subsequently, the church observed Mother's Day on the second Sunday of

May each year, making Andrews the mother church of Mother's Day. The church, no longer an active Methodist congregation, was incorporated as an international shrine in 1962 and is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each weekday between April 15 and Oct. 15.

For the first official Mother's Day service in 1908, Anna sent 500 white carnations to the church to be given to the participating mothers. During the next several years, she sent more than 10,000 carnations there. Carnations--red for the living and white for the deceased--became symbols of the purity, strength and endurance of motherhood.

The first Mother's Day proclamation was issued by West Virginia's governor in 1910. The day was celebrated in most states in 1911.

In 1914, the U.S. House and Senate approved a resolution proclaiming the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day. President Woodrow Wilson endorsed it, and Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan proclaimed it.

Today, countries around the world celebrate Mother's Day. Some--including Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia and Belgium--have joined the United States in observing it on the second Sunday in May.

For more information on the history of Mother's Day, check the Internet: <http://www.holidays.net/mother/story>.





## Message from the district superintendent The Easter people

There were twenty of us in a circle with gold painted shovels in our hands. After we turned over the first spade of earth, twenty more persons stepped forward, then another twenty, and another, until everyone marked the place on which we stood as holy ground.

Asbury UMC on the West Bank had prayed and worked for this day for years. They have raised \$293,000 in a capital funds campaign organized with the training and guidance of Dr. Ken Reed, executive director of the United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana. By next Easter Sunday, they may well be worshipping in a new sanctuary with space for all the people, all the choirs, and with all the classroom space they have so desperately needed. This is a Day of New Beginnings for Rev. Andrew Douglas, pastor, and the faithful members at Asbury.

There are signs of New Beginnings all around the New Orleans District. Just ask the congregation at Belle Chasse, which has enlarged its sanctuary and ordered



Rev. Carole  
Cotton Winn

more pews. Notice the new building into which St. Luke's UMC is about to move and put to use with big, bright areas for the children in their pre-school ministry. Ask anyone at Bethany UMC, or especially the 70 new persons who have joined in the past year, about new beginnings.

If you're looking for a place to have lunch, try the Treme

Corner Cafe, an outreach ministry of St. Mark's Community Center. It is providing a delightful new restaurant in the Treme neighborhood which trains young people with skills and then helps them get employment, and most importantly, to believe in themselves. Talk about a New Beginning!

Easter People believe in New Beginnings. We put our faith into action, peoples' lives are changed, and congregations explode with new ministries. There is a lot to celebrate right here in the New Orleans District.

Peace for the journey.

## Meet your district communication advisor

Meet Dian Kent, communication advisor for the New Orleans District.

We welcome Dian to the District Ministry Team. She has already attended two conference training events for her office as communication advisor. She has been an employee of Bell South for twenty-three years and presently is an administrative assistant.

On her home time, she cares for her



Dian Kent

four children from ages 14 to 20-years old. In all her other time, she is an active and faithful member of St. Matthew UMC in Algiers.

If you have district-wide information for the New Orleans District or would like information on

publishing in this section, please contact Dian at (504) 368-2567 or the New Orleans District superintendent's office at (504) 488-5430.

## On A Scripture

**John 3:16** — "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

This chapter and verse was a favorite of my father, the late Rev. W. H. Douglas. This verse teaches us that to love means to give. It is impossible to love and not give. If we truly love the Lord we will give him our time, talent, service and gifts.

Rev. Andrew J. Douglas  
Pastor, Asbury-St. Matthew UMCs

## Friends of Lafon present a "A Jazzy Night in June"



The Lafon Nursing Home of the United Methodist Church will celebrate its fourth annual "A Jazzy Night in June" fundraiser on Saturday, June 13. The Black Tie gala will be held in the grand ballroom of the New Orleans Marriott Hotel located on Canal Street.

"A Jazzy Night in June" will open with a patron party at 7 p.m. followed by the 8 p.m. gala featuring a dinner, show, dancing and a silent auction. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased by calling the Lafon Nursing Home at (504) 288-8942.

## District Council on Ministries says hello to District Ministry Team

The New Orleans District recently joined with United Methodist districts around the state in saying good-bye to the District Council on Ministries and welcome to the new District Ministry Team (DMT).

The torch was passed on at a meeting held Feb. 5. Dr. Anita Crump (pictured left in photo below), chair, District Council on Ministries, was presented a certificate in acknowledgment of her dedicated service. The new District Ministry Team will assist in revitalizing, planting and transforming local churches. Most importantly it will support the making of disciples by offering resources and services to the local churches. Service areas will be education, renewal ministries, spiritual development and evangelism and mission.

In this new DMT format, resources, training, programs, consultation and technical assistance will be more readily available to individual churches. Through a one-church-at-a-time process, the DMT will listen to and learn the needs and concerns of our New Orleans District churches.

The team is up and running and is eager to begin networking with local churches to provide support and assistance where needed. The DMT can be contacted through the New Orleans District office at (504) 488-5430.



## New Orleans District Calendar

### May

- 9 District UMM Meeting  
First UMC
- 9 UMW Mission Team  
Meeting  
Grace UMC
- 14 UMW Assembly  
Orlando, Florida
- 19 Pre-Conference  
Training  
Lake Vista UMC,  
6:30 p.m.

### June

- 8-11 Annual Conference,  
Centenary College,  
Shreveport
- 13 Lafon Nursing  
Home, "Jazzy Night  
in June," Marriott  
Hotel, 8 p.m.

# New Orleans District News



3401 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119  
(504) 488-5430

**District Superintendent**  
Rev. Carole Cotton Winn  
**Communication Advisor**  
Dian Kent

## 1998 New Orleans District Ministry Team

- District Superintendent**  
Rev. Carole Cotton Winn
- District Missioner**  
To be selected
- Lay Leader**  
Germain Peters  
(Cornerstone UMC)
- Council on Finance & Adm.**  
Stephenae Carey (Boynnton UMC)
- Education Ministries**  
Carol Sherer (Rayne UMC)
- Board of Church Location**  
Amy Ward (St. Luke's UMC)
- Renewal Ministries**  
Rev. Arnold Roberts  
(Belle Chase UMC)
- Meditative Ministries**  
Rev. Darryl Tate  
(First UMC, Kenner)
- Outreach Ministries**  
Rev. Joe Connelly  
(Cornerstone UMC)
- Communication Advisor**  
Dian Kent (St. Matthew UMC)
- Youth Representative**  
Jonathan Hammett (Luling UMC)
- Youth Coordinator**  
Dolores Giles (Mt. Zion UMC)
- Values Team Representative**  
Rev. Russell Jones (Haven UMC)
- Other Support Members**  
Joe Burke (Asbury UMC)  
Larry Bates (Munholland UMC)  
June Sanchez (UMW President)  
Wallace Smith (UMM President)



## News from the North Shore



124 Lisa Lane  
Mandeville, LA 70448  
(504) 626-0918

**District Superintendent**  
Dr. Carl Rhoads  
**Communication Advisor**  
Rev. Wanda Cosentino

### From the district superintendent

God moved through the North Shore District during the month of March in the form of a 53-foot, 18-wheel tractor-trailer bearing the United Methodist cross and flame and the words "Mission in Motion." The sixty congregations of the district responded to this movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst by collecting, assembling and loading 417 "flood buckets" on the trailer.

These five-gallon buckets valued at \$50 each were filled with cleaning supplies and implements that will be distributed to victims of flooding to help restore their lives following a disastrous event. In addition to this contribution, valued at \$21,000, a group of volunteers from the district accompanied the trailer to the UMCOR Depot at the Sager-Brown facility in Baldwin to unload the truck, store the buckets and tour this center for missions.

God is working in the lives of a people called United Methodists in some marvelous ways. It is my prayer that each of us will discover those ways that God can use our gifts to relieve the pain and suffering of our brothers and sisters and bring joy to their lives.



If you have news about your church, someone in your church or something happening at your church you want others to know about, please get the information to me as soon as possible. Our next page will be published in June. Send stories, photos to:

Rev. Wanda Cosentino  
P.O. Box 563  
Greensburg, LA 70441  
(504) 222-3302.



by Rev. Wanda Cosentino  
District Communication Advisor

Mrs. Lena Bartner McLin (pictured above) is a member of Pine Grove UMC. That in itself is no great feat, but Mrs. Lena, or "Momma," as I call her, is 98 years old and has been a member of this church since 1917. She is the oldest living member of the church.

Momma moved to Pine Grove in 1915. She was working in the berry fields and packing berries when she met her husband, Emmett McLin. They married in December 1916 and began attending the Pine Grove Church.

The church was a little white frame building then, but Mrs. Lena has many fond memories of those times. She especially remembers the "Amen" bench right up in front. That's where all the men sat and made sure the preacher said the right things. She raised her two children in that church. Her daughter, Lula Mae Lombardo, is an associate member of Pine Grove and her son, John, lives in Baton Rouge.

Momma may be 98, but as you can see from the picture, she doesn't let any "pavement grow under her feet." Momma loves to ride on her great nephew's Harley. She says she would ride it alone, except her 86 pounds won't hold it up.

A church is made up of people. People have history. I hope you have enjoyed us sharing ours with you.

*(Please send your human interest articles, or articles about your church and its history, for this column.)*

## Laity banquet honors late W.E. Taylor

by Rev. Wanda Cosentino  
District Communication Advisor

The North Shore District Laity Banquet was held Sunday, March 29 at St. Timothy's UMC in Mandeville. Proceeds from the dinner will go to the Daughenbaugh/Matheny Scholarship program, providing scholarships for students to attend Dillard or Centenary, our two United Methodist colleges in Louisiana.

The evening, well-attended by laity and clergy, included dinner and entertainment by a barbershop quartet from Aldersgate UMC. A special presentation memorialized W. E. Taylor, a man well-known for his work as a lay member of this district. (See photo right)

## 'Flood buckets' on way to UMCOR Depot

by Rev. Wanda Cosentino  
District Communication Advisor

Our Mission in Motion month got off to a great start as the large tractor-trailer truck with the United Methodist "cross and flame" on the side spent a week in the parking lot of Aldersgate UMC in Slidell. This was the first of four stops in the district during March. Aldersgate members were able to load over 100 buckets filled with cleaning supplies before sending the truck down the road to Mandeville, Hammond and Denham Springs.

The flood buckets filled by all of the churches in the North Shore District were hauled in the trailer to the UMCOR Depot in Baldwin, unloaded and will be stored until needed, then distributed to people of all denominations where there is a need.

"The buckets were filled with things needed to begin decontaminating a home and cleaning up after a flood," said Woody Woodside, who headed up the program at Aldersgate.

Church members were asked to contribute supplies or cash to purchase the items on a list compiled by UMCOR and distributed by the Louisiana Annual Conference, which heads up the program. Each of the five-gallon buckets contain approximately \$50 worth of cleaning supplies.

The new Mission in Motion program is a practical way for churches of all sizes to be in mission and to bring help and hope as quickly as possible to disaster areas.

## Crosses and flames donated by Baptist

by Maggie Bickham  
Centenary UMC

Randy Seal, (pictured right in photo right) is a lifelong Baptist, but that didn't stop him from becoming a benefactor to every United Methodist church in Washington Parish. He has donated at least ten metalcraft symbols of the United Methodist "cross and flame" to area churches.

"I saw one of these symbols on my way to Columbia, Miss., near Cherow, and I was struck by its simple, but powerful message, representing the Savior and the Holy Spirit," said Seal. "I was working at the Washington Correctional Institute where there was a metal shop and I felt like I could make them, if I had a pattern. My daughter Sara, who was about four at the time, rode with me to Cherow and held up the cardboard while I traced it out. It was raining cats and dogs, but Sara hung in there and we came home with a rough drawing."

"I had no idea there were so many United Methodist churches in the parish. I think it ended up with about ten, and there may still be some others. If so, I hope to hear from them," Seal said.

Dr. Spiller Milton (pictured left), of Centenary/Fisher United Methodist Churches, expressed delight in having the impressive symbol in the church yard. He explained the symbolism as follows: "We



all know the cross symbolizes Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, but not everyone realizes that the flame represents the Flame of Pentecost, or what the Bible calls 'Tongues of Fire.' Pentecost is commemorative of the descent of the Holy Ghost on the apostles which occurred fifty days after the Jewish Passover. Dr. Milton added, "It has become a universal symbol of Methodism and we are certainly grateful to Mr. Seal for his generosity."

*Reprinted from The Era-Leader, Franklinton, La.*



Fred Banks (right) presented a plaque honoring the late W.E. Taylor, district lay member, to Rev. Wilbur Davis, who will present the plaque to Mr. Taylor's widow, Annie.



# Louisiana Conference

## 'Fair Share' Supplement

A supplement to the Louisiana Conference edition of the United Methodist Review

May 1, 1998

*How are we doing?*

### Contributions needed for Conference Center debt-reduction payment

Significant contributions since January 1, 1998 will permit a debt reduction payment of at least \$500,000

by June 1, 1998 on the \$3,000,000 Conference Center loan. Thank you! Thank you! for these vitally needed

funds.

In order to meet in full the loan on the Conference Center, the full payment of

the full fair share goal's necessary in every congregation.

Each congregation is being

asked to return to their original Fair Share Goal. Even though pledges were made representing an amount less than the Fair Share Goal, and even though such pledges have been paid in full, or partially, we cannot and must not settle for any amount less than the full, fair-share goal, otherwise we will be left with a continuing long-term debt, along with continuing interest payments.

The accompanying chart contains important information on "How We Are Doing."

### Bishop Solomon's Conference Center video available for local churches

For any congregation that has not met or exceeded its ORIGINAL FAIR SHARE GOAL, a video recorded by Bishop Solomon will prove to be a vital stimulus in helping the congregation claim and meet its Fair Share Goal.

The urgency of meeting the Fair Share Goal cannot be underestimated! Interest on the \$3,000,000 Conference Center loan is accruing at the rate of \$553 per day.

Bishop Solomon's video captures the original dream our Conference held for such a Conference Center, looks at the unique way in which the Conference Center is "home" for all of Louisiana United Methodism, illumines vital, life-changing ministries already happening at the Conference Center, and paints a positive, confident roadmap for meeting the debt service and further developing the Conference Center.

Each District Office has copies of the video. The videos may be obtained and kept for repeated use in the congregations. All congregations are encouraged to show the video in as many settings as possible.



#### ACADIANA DISTRICT

| CHURCH                   | GOAL      | TOTAL PD  |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Abbeville UMC            | 11,828.00 | 7,260.00  |
| Bayou Blue UMC           | 5,816.00  | 100.00    |
| Berwick First UMC        | 9,635.00  | 2,726.73  |
| Briggs UMC               | 1,962.00  | 122.56    |
| Calvary UMC              | 2,969.00  | 748.00    |
| Centenary UMC, Rayne     | 5,006.00  | 850.00    |
| Church of the Covenant   | 13,865.00 | 7,223.00  |
| Clanton Chapel UMC       | 4,013.00  | 1,700.00  |
| Fitzgerald UMC           | 809.00    | 1,025.00  |
| Franklin First UMC       | 13,040.00 | 12,440.00 |
| Franklin Asbury UMC      | 3,104.00  | 1,100.00  |
| Gibson UMC               | 90.00     | 0.00      |
| Godman UMC               | 980.00    | 0.00      |
| Green Chapel UMC         | 607.00    | 0.00      |
| Houma First UMC          | 34,986.00 | 23,560.00 |
| Houma Heights UMC        | 2,793.00  | 847.50    |
| Immanuel UMC             | 3,902.00  | 350.00    |
| Indian Bayou UMC         | 6,600.00  | 2,000.00  |
| Jeanerette St. Paul UMC  | 4,049.00  | 7,049.00  |
| Krotz Springs UMC        | 742.00    | 542.00    |
| Lafayette Asbury UMC     | 87,643.00 | 73,308.66 |
| Lafayette First UMC      | 30,585.00 | 45,370.00 |
| Louisiana Memorial UMC   | 19,204.00 | 21,345.00 |
| Lydia UMC                | 1,890.00  | 2,520.00  |
| Magnolia UMC             | 2,837.00  | 2,000.00  |
| Mallalieu UMC            | 4,201.00  | 415.00    |
| Mason UMC                | 2,207.00  | 1,275.00  |
| Matthews Memorial UMC    | 4,582.00  | 3,200.00  |
| McGowen UMC              | 1,930.00  | 2,350.00  |
| Melville UMC             | 2,161.00  | 1,680.00  |
| Mt. Vernon UMC           | 2,269.00  | 0.00      |
| Mt. Zion UMC, Jeanerette | 612.00    | 612.00    |
| Mt. Zion UMC, New Iberia | 1,416.00  | 0.00      |
| Napoleonville Wesley UMC | 2,377.00  | 2,130.00  |
| New Iberia First UMC     | 25,632.00 | 21,225.00 |
| New Roads St. Paul UMC   | 455.00    | 114.00    |
| New Roads UMC            | 2,859.00  | 8,100.00  |
| Northwood UMC            | 6,691.00  | 920.00    |
| Palmetto UMC             | 1,351.00  | 2,051.00  |
| Patterson UMC            | 5,685.00  | 4,174.51  |

#### ACADIANA DISTRICT (continued)

| CHURCH                   | GOAL      | TOTAL PD  |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Pecan Island UMC         | 1,022.00  | 1,022.00  |
| Pharr Chapel UMC         | 15,183.00 | 1,840.00  |
| Port Barre UMC           | 2,699.00  | 1,521.00  |
| Rosedale UMC             | 3,249.00  | 2,586.87  |
| Scott Chapel UMC         | 1,038.00  | 200.00    |
| St. James UMC, Lafayette | 3,190.00  | 71.30     |
| St. James UMC, Melville  | 3,190.00  | 300.00    |
| St. Mark UMC             | 7,348.00  | 7,348.00  |
| St. Peter UMC            | 5,985.00  | 1,014.76  |
| Thibodaux First UMC      | 11,570.00 | 12,730.04 |
| Trinity UMC              | 2,678.00  | 1,500.00  |
| Vacherie UMC             | 111.00    | 5,096.00  |
| Walmsley UMC             | 2,223.00  | 1,723.00  |
| Washington St. Paul UMC  | 1,351.00  | 935.00    |
| Wesley UMC, Houma        | 1,487.00  | 0.00      |
| Wiley UMC                | 1,076.00  | 1,076.00  |
| Wilson Memorial UMC      | 1,042.00  | 255.00    |
| Woodlawn                 | 2,536.00  | 0.00      |

#### ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT

| CHURCH                   | GOAL      | TOTAL PD  |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Asbury UMC               | 4,966.00  | 1,383.00  |
| Atlanta UMC              | 718.00    | 0.00      |
| Ball UMC                 | 1,501.00  | 500.00    |
| Bayou Chicot UMC         | 800.00    | 800.00    |
| Belah UMC                | 1,315.00  | 1,415.00  |
| Bethel UMC               | 1,788.00  | 10.00     |
| Beulah UMC               | 1,244.00  | 1,244.00  |
| Booneville Wesley UMC    | 3,713.00  | 3,901.00  |
| Boyce First UMC          | 2,858.00  | 870.00    |
| Bunkie Trinity UMC       | 3,309.00  | 350.00    |
| Campti St. Paul UMC      | 553.00    | 10.00     |
| Campti First UMC         | 678.00    | 678.00    |
| Cheneyville St. Paul UMC | 607.00    | 0.00      |
| Cheneyville UMC          | 900.00    | 900.00    |
| Clear Creek UMC          | 684.00    | 1,000.00  |
| Colfax UMC               | 6,578.00  | 525.00    |
| College Avenue UMC       | 1,532.00  | 1,532.00  |
| Couley UMC               | 971.00    | 791.00    |
| David Haas Memorial UMC  | 9,810.00  | 9,810.00  |
| Eden UMC                 | 522.00    | 0.00      |
| Emmanuel UMC             | 435.00    | 600.00    |
| Evergreen UMC            | 823.00    | 390.00    |
| Fellowship UMC           | 2,610.00  | 2,075.00  |
| First UMC, Alexandria    | 83,601.00 | 41,694.51 |
| Georgetown Selma UMC     | 763.00    | 500.00    |
| Glenmora UMC             | 3,571.00  | 5,895.41  |
| Hollins Chapel UMC       | 605.00    | 250.00    |
| Horseshoe Drive UMC      | 22,180.00 | 3,105.00  |
| Jena Nolley Memorial UMC | 18,632.00 | 11,463.00 |
| Jonesville UMC           | 4,992.00  | 340.00    |
| Lahey Chapel UMC         | 651.00    | 20.00     |
| Lecompte UMC             | 4,805.00  | 8,380.00  |
| Liberty Chapel UMC       | 1,327.00  | 1,006.25  |
| MacArthur Drive UMC      | 813.00    | 0.00      |







## ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT (continued)

| CHURCH                      | GOAL      | TOTAL PD  |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Marksville UMC              | 2,977.00  | 1,384.09  |
| Marthaville UMC             | 1,110.00  | 1,110.00  |
| Melder First UMC            | 435.00    | 200.00    |
| Montgomery UMC              | 1,813.00  | 350.00    |
| Mt. Zion, Alexandria        | 484.00    | 30.00     |
| Mt. Zion, Winnfield         | 1,489.00  | 1,870.00  |
| Natchitoches First UMC      | 41,767.00 | 35,233.15 |
| Newman UMC                  | 9,409.00  | 3,141.36  |
| Oak Grove UMC, Natchitoches | 5,415.00  | 0.00      |
| Oak Grove UMC               | 2,511.00  | 2,511.00  |
| Olla UMC                    | 5,994.00  | 0.00      |
| Palestine UMC               | 15,011.00 | 0.00      |
| Pineville First UMC         | 42,300.00 | 17,368.00 |
| Pineville Wesley UMC        | 2,578.00  | 2,280.00  |
| Pleasant Grove UMC          | 1,222.00  | 1,222.00  |
| Pollock UMC                 | 3,723.00  | 966.00    |
| Provencal UMC               | 1,561.00  | 0.00      |
| Sanders Chapel UMC          | 1,146.00  | 0.00      |
| Sieper UMC                  | 728.00    | 400.00    |
| Simmesport UMC              | 1,059.00  | 188.79    |
| St. Marks UMC, Natchitoches | 267.00    | 0.00      |
| St. Marks UMC               | 208.00    | 1,500.00  |
| St. Maurice UMC             | 497.00    | 597.00    |
| St. Mark's UMC, Alexandria  | 3,619.00  | 6,250.00  |
| Strange UMC                 | 1,570.00  | 0.00      |
| Trinity UMC, Alexandria     | 10,512.00 | 5,703.00  |
| Trout Justiss Memorial      | 3,784.00  | 500.00    |
| Union UMC                   | 1,311.00  | 1,150.00  |
| Urania UMC                  | 2,079.00  | 0.00      |
| Weaver UMC                  | 1,011.00  | 0.00      |
| Whites Chapel UMC           | 743.00    | 800.00    |
| Williams Chapel UMC         | 322.00    | 36.00     |
| Wilton UMC                  | 2,456.00  | 3,093.00  |
| Winnfield First UMC         | 23,090.00 | 21,685.00 |

## BATON ROUGE DISTRICT

| CHURCH                   | GOAL       | TOTAL PD   |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| Andrews Chapel UMC       | 2,011.00   | 0.00       |
| Asbury UMC               | 2,412.00   | 2,412.00   |
| Baker First UMC          | 12,800.00  | 3,707.50   |
| Baton Rouge First UMC    | 130,858.00 | 131,802.39 |
| Beech Grove UMC          | 1,748.00   | 1,100.00   |
| Bethel UMC, Pride        | 5,654.00   | 5,854.00   |
| Blackwater UMC           | 41,837.00  | 5,117.00   |
| Bluff Creek UMC          | 1,572.00   | 1,572.00   |
| Broadmoor, Baton Rouge   | 146,030.00 | 83,611.65  |
| Camphor Memorial UMC     | 14,441.00  | 14,941.00  |
| Carpenter's Chapel UMC   | 4,894.00   | 2,065.00   |
| Clear Creek UMC          | 3,135.00   | 940.00     |
| Clinton First UMC        | 13,489.00  | 6,479.00   |
| Concord UMC              | 337.00     | 0.00       |
| Convent St James UMC     | 1,147.00   | 0.00       |
| Deerford UMC             | 3,902.00   | 3,902.00   |
| Donaldsonville First UMC | 2,412.00   | 2,461.30   |
| Ethel UMC                | 2,905.00   | 2,905.00   |
| Evangeline UMC           | 11,817.00  | 13,580.00  |
| Faithful UMC             | 4,836.00   | 0.00       |
| Francis Asbury UMC       | 10,580.00  | 5,452.00   |
| Gonzales St Landry UMC   | 4,318.00   | 991.50     |
| Gonzales UMC             | 13,634.00  | 8,125.00   |
| Grand River UMC          | 3,135.00   | 0.00       |
| Hartzell UMC             | 1,869.00   | 0.00       |
| Hughes Memorial UMC      | 3,850.00   | 500.00     |
| Hurst Chapel UMC         | 1,761.00   | 1,761.00   |
| Ingleside UMC            | 19,947.00  | 6,909.88   |
| Jackson Chapel UMC       | 1,151.00   | 0.00       |
| Jackson UMC              | 7,946.00   | 2,295.46   |
| Jefferson UMC            | 22,339.00  | 22,724.50  |
| Jordan UMC               | 8,548.00   | 1,000.00   |
| Jubilee Community Church | 0.00       | 0.00       |
| Lejeune UMC              | 538.00     | 150.00     |
| Lutcher Chapel UMC       | 4,299.00   | 363.00     |
| Lutcher First UMC        | 1,450.00   | 1,450.00   |
| Magnolia UMC             | 11,233.00  | 1,630.00   |
| Maringouin St Peter UMC  | 1,627.00   | 1,627.00   |
| Meadows Chapel UMC       | 1,669.00   | 2,169.00   |
| Moses Chapel UMC         | 1,241.00   | 1,210.00   |
| Mt Carmel UMC            | 1,650.00   | 0.00       |
| Mt. Zion, Clinton        | 2,926.00   | 2,926.00   |
| Neely UMC                | 9,011.00   | 885.00     |
| New Hope UMC             | 1,450.00   | 0.00       |
| New River UMC            | 1,893.00   | 0.00       |

## BATON ROUGE DISTRICT (continued)

| CHURCH                       | GOAL      | TOTAL PD  |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Plaquemine First UMC         | 7,896.00  | 7,520.00  |
| Port Allen Scott UMC         | 4,848.00  | 1,812.00  |
| Shiloh UMC                   | 1,272.00  | 619.00    |
| Slaughter UMC                | 3,356.00  | 0.00      |
| St Andrews UMC               | 30,268.00 | 17,848.74 |
| St Francisville UMC          | 9,534.00  | 9,900.00  |
| St James Belle Rose UMC      | 2,776.00  | 1,600.00  |
| St Johns UMC                 | 27,834.00 | 34,062.22 |
| St Luke UMC                  | 726.00    | 0.00      |
| St Luke's, Baton Rouge       | 8,026.00  | 632.19    |
| St Mark UMC                  | 15,687.00 | 18,712.00 |
| St Paul UMC                  | 4,111.00  | 4,111.00  |
| St Peter UMC                 | 2,676.00  | 335.00    |
| St Peter UMC, Donaldsonville | 2,676.00  | 0.00      |
| St. Paul UMC                 | 1,882.00  | 1,505.00  |
| Tunica UMC                   | 840.00    | 900.00    |
| University UMC               | 67,093.00 | 66,598.02 |
| Wesley UMC                   | 1,911.00  | 300.00    |
| Wesley, Baton Rouge          | 14,493.00 | 16,100.00 |
| Zachary First UMC            | 22,817.00 | 16,856.45 |

## LAKE CHARLES DISTRICT

| CHURCH                       | GOAL      | TOTAL PD  |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Basile UMC                   | 577.00    | 0.00      |
| Branch UMC                   | 460.00    | 460.00    |
| Cameron Wakefield UMC        | 4,689.00  | 0.00      |
| Church Point UMC             | 3,073.00  | 1,625.00  |
| Crowley First UMC            | 14,808.00 | 8,885.00  |
| Crowley Trinity UMC          | 141.00    | 0.00      |
| Crowley Wesley UMC           | 2,900.00  | 150.00    |
| Dequincy First UMC           | 13,520.00 | 710.00    |
| DeRidder First UMC           | 14,030.00 | 933.00    |
| DeRidder Wesley UMC          | 6,058.00  | 1,945.00  |
| Ebenezer UMC                 | 4,856.00  | 4,856.00  |
| Elizabeth UMC                | 2,126.00  | 0.00      |
| Elton UMC                    | 2,278.00  | 0.00      |
| Eunice UMC                   | 8,872.00  | 0.00      |
| Fairview UMC                 | 3,478.00  | 100.00    |
| Florien Prospect UMC         | 3,134.00  | 2,630.00  |
| Grand Chenier UMC            | 4,049.00  | 0.00      |
| Gueydan UMC                  | 9,310.00  | 9,310.00  |
| Hackberry UMC                | 1,410.00  | 400.00    |
| Haskins Chapel UMC           | 561.00    | 0.00      |
| Hayes UMC                    | 1,594.00  | 480.00    |
| Holly Grove UMC              | 2,665.00  | 5,748.28  |
| Hopewell UMC                 | 2,141.00  | 2,141.00  |
| Hornbeck UMC                 | 1,921.00  | 2,750.00  |
| Iota UMC                     | 1,264.00  | 200.00    |
| Iowa UMC                     | 6,435.00  | 5,085.00  |
| Jennings First UMC           | 17,114.00 | 3,849.00  |
| Jennings Trinity UMC         | 4,768.00  | 770.00    |
| Kaplan UMC                   | 1,494.00  | 1,494.00  |
| Kinder UMC                   | 5,003.00  | 2,280.00  |
| Korean UMC                   | 4,352.00  | 0.00      |
| Lake Arthur UMC              | 6,682.00  | 0.00      |
| Lake Charles First UMC       | 60,593.00 | 33,295.00 |
| Leesville First UMC          | 14,174.00 | 14,257.00 |
| Leesville Mt. Zion UMC       | 1,458.00  | 250.00    |
| Macedonia UMC                | 1,331.00  | 450.00    |
| Mallalieu UMC                | 866.00    | 0.00      |
| Maxie UMC                    | 1,051.00  | 0.00      |
| Merryville UMC               | 2,416.00  | 760.00    |
| Moss Bluff UMC               | 10,806.00 | 1,079.00  |
| Oak Park UMC                 | 14,466.00 | 18,285.00 |
| Oakdale UMC                  | 8,897.00  | 5,726.50  |
| Oberlin UMC                  | 830.00    | 0.00      |
| Pine Grove UMC               | 293.00    | 293.00    |
| Pine Prairie UMC             | 913.00    | 913.00    |
| Raymond UMC                  | 4,508.00  | 3,343.00  |
| Roanoke UMC                  | 6,468.00  | 2,320.00  |
| Squyres UMC                  | 4,500.00  | 2,826.63  |
| St. Luke-Simpson UMC         | 38,200.00 | 13,335.75 |
| Sulphur, Henning Mem UMC     | 44,719.00 | 38,344.82 |
| Sulphur, Maplewood UMC       | 8,110.00  | 560.00    |
| Sulphur, Wesley UMC          | 12,437.00 | 2,210.00  |
| Sweetlake UMC                | 4,718.00  | 54.00     |
| University UMC, Lake Charles | 43,672.00 | 7,593.00  |
| Ville Platte UMC             | 1,426.00  | 200.00    |
| Vinton Welsh Mem UMC         | 5,662.00  | 2,075.00  |
| Warren UMC                   | 12,880.00 | 2,000.00  |
| Welsh Jones UMC              | 2,162.00  | 175.00    |
| Welsh UMC                    | 9,636.00  | 2,370.00  |
| Westlake UMC                 | 13,063.00 | 139.00    |









## ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT (continued)

| CHURCH                      | GOAL      | TOTAL PD  |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Marksville UMC              | 2,977.00  | 1,384.09  |
| Marthaville UMC             | 1,110.00  | 1,110.00  |
| Melder First UMC            | 435.00    | 200.00    |
| Montgomery UMC              | 1,813.00  | 350.00    |
| Mt. Zion, Alexandria        | 484.00    | 30.00     |
| Mt. Zion, Winnfield         | 1,489.00  | 1,870.00  |
| Natchitoches First UMC      | 41,767.00 | 35,233.15 |
| Newman UMC                  | 9,409.00  | 3,141.36  |
| Oak Grove UMC, Natchitoches | 5,415.00  | 0.00      |
| Oak Grove UMC               | 2,511.00  | 2,511.00  |
| Olla UMC                    | 5,994.00  | 0.00      |
| Palestine UMC               | 15,011.00 | 0.00      |
| Pineville First UMC         | 42,300.00 | 17,368.00 |
| Pineville Wesley UMC        | 2,578.00  | 2,280.00  |
| Pleasant Grove UMC          | 1,222.00  | 1,222.00  |
| Pollock UMC                 | 3,723.00  | 966.00    |
| Provençal UMC               | 1,561.00  | 0.00      |
| Sanders Chapel UMC          | 1,146.00  | 0.00      |
| Sieper UMC                  | 728.00    | 400.00    |
| Simmesport UMC              | 1,059.00  | 188.79    |
| St. Marks UMC, Natchitoches | 267.00    | 0.00      |
| St. Marks UMC               | 208.00    | 1,500.00  |
| St. Maurice UMC             | 497.00    | 597.00    |
| St. Mark's UMC, Alexandria  | 3,619.00  | 6,250.00  |
| Strange UMC                 | 1,570.00  | 0.00      |
| Trinity UMC, Alexandria     | 10,512.00 | 5,703.00  |
| Trout Justiss Memorial      | 3,784.00  | 500.00    |
| Union UMC                   | 1,311.00  | 1,150.00  |
| Urania UMC                  | 2,079.00  | 0.00      |
| Weaver UMC                  | 1,011.00  | 0.00      |
| Whites Chapel UMC           | 743.00    | 800.00    |
| Williams Chapel UMC         | 322.00    | 36.00     |
| Wilton UMC                  | 2,456.00  | 3,093.00  |
| Winnfield First UMC         | 23,090.00 | 21,685.00 |

## BATON ROUGE DISTRICT

| CHURCH                   | GOAL       | TOTAL PD   |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| Andrews Chapel UMC       | 2,011.00   | 0.00       |
| Asbury UMC               | 2,412.00   | 2,412.00   |
| Baker First UMC          | 12,800.00  | 3,707.50   |
| Baton Rouge First UMC    | 130,858.00 | 131,802.39 |
| Beech Grove UMC          | 1,748.00   | 1,100.00   |
| Bethel UMC, Pride        | 5,654.00   | 5,854.00   |
| Blackwater UMC           | 41,837.00  | 5,117.00   |
| Bluff Creek UMC          | 1,572.00   | 1,572.00   |
| Broadmoor, Baton Rouge   | 146,030.00 | 83,611.65  |
| Camphor Memorial UMC     | 14,441.00  | 14,941.00  |
| Carpenter's Chapel UMC   | 4,894.00   | 2,065.00   |
| Clear Creek UMC          | 3,135.00   | 940.00     |
| Clinton First UMC        | 13,489.00  | 6,479.00   |
| Concord UMC              | 337.00     | 0.00       |
| Convent St James UMC     | 1,147.00   | 0.00       |
| Deerford UMC             | 3,902.00   | 3,902.00   |
| Donaldsonville First UMC | 2,412.00   | 2,461.30   |
| Ethel UMC                | 2,905.00   | 2,905.00   |
| Evangeline UMC           | 11,817.00  | 13,580.00  |
| Faithful UMC             | 4,836.00   | 0.00       |
| Francis Asbury UMC       | 10,580.00  | 5,452.00   |
| Gonzales St Landry UMC   | 4,318.00   | 991.50     |
| Gonzales UMC             | 13,634.00  | 8,125.00   |
| Grand River UMC          | 3,135.00   | 0.00       |
| Hartzell UMC             | 1,869.00   | 0.00       |
| Hughes Memorial UMC      | 3,850.00   | 500.00     |
| Hurst Chapel UMC         | 1,761.00   | 1,761.00   |
| Ingleside UMC            | 19,947.00  | 6,909.88   |
| Jackson Chapel UMC       | 1,151.00   | 0.00       |
| Jackson UMC              | 7,946.00   | 2,295.46   |
| Jefferson UMC            | 22,339.00  | 22,724.50  |
| Jordan UMC               | 8,548.00   | 1,000.00   |
| Jubilee Community Church | 0.00       | 0.00       |
| Lejeune UMC              | 538.00     | 150.00     |
| Lutcher Chapel UMC       | 4,299.00   | 363.00     |
| Lutcher First UMC        | 1,450.00   | 1,450.00   |
| Magnolia UMC             | 11,233.00  | 1,630.00   |
| Maringouin St Peter UMC  | 1,627.00   | 1,627.00   |
| Meadows Chapel UMC       | 1,669.00   | 2,169.00   |
| Moses Chapel UMC         | 1,241.00   | 1,210.00   |
| Mt Carmel UMC            | 1,650.00   | 0.00       |
| Mt. Zion, Clinton        | 2,926.00   | 2,926.00   |
| Neely UMC                | 9,011.00   | 885.00     |
| New Hope UMC             | 1,450.00   | 0.00       |
| New River UMC            | 1,893.00   | 0.00       |

## BATON ROUGE DISTRICT (continued)

| CHURCH                       | GOAL      | TOTAL PD  |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Plaquemine First UMC         | 7,896.00  | 7,520.00  |
| Port Allen Scott UMC         | 4,848.00  | 1,812.00  |
| Shiloh UMC                   | 1,272.00  | 619.00    |
| Slaughter UMC                | 3,356.00  | 0.00      |
| St Andrews UMC               | 30,268.00 | 17,848.74 |
| St Francisville UMC          | 9,534.00  | 9,900.00  |
| St James Belle Rose UMC      | 2,776.00  | 1,600.00  |
| St Johns UMC                 | 27,834.00 | 34,062.22 |
| St Luke UMC                  | 726.00    | 0.00      |
| St Luke's, Baton Rouge       | 8,026.00  | 632.19    |
| St Mark UMC                  | 15,687.00 | 18,712.00 |
| St Paul UMC                  | 4,111.00  | 4,111.00  |
| St Peter UMC                 | 2,676.00  | 335.00    |
| St Peter UMC, Donaldsonville | 2,676.00  | 0.00      |
| St. Paul UMC                 | 1,882.00  | 1,505.00  |
| Tunica UMC                   | 840.00    | 900.00    |
| University UMC               | 67,093.00 | 66,598.02 |
| Wesley UMC                   | 1,911.00  | 300.00    |
| Wesley, Baton Rouge          | 14,493.00 | 16,100.00 |
| Zachary First UMC            | 22,817.00 | 16,856.45 |

## LAKE CHARLES DISTRICT

| CHURCH                       | GOAL      | TOTAL PD  |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Basile UMC                   | 577.00    | 0.00      |
| Branch UMC                   | 460.00    | 460.00    |
| Cameron Wakefield UMC        | 4,689.00  | 0.00      |
| Church Point UMC             | 3,073.00  | 1,625.00  |
| Crowley First UMC            | 14,808.00 | 8,885.00  |
| Crowley Trinity UMC          | 141.00    | 0.00      |
| Crowley Wesley UMC           | 2,900.00  | 150.00    |
| Dequincy First UMC           | 13,520.00 | 710.00    |
| DeRidder First UMC           | 14,030.00 | 933.00    |
| DeRidder Wesley UMC          | 6,058.00  | 1,945.00  |
| Ebenezer UMC                 | 4,856.00  | 4,856.00  |
| Elizabeth UMC                | 2,126.00  | 0.00      |
| Elton UMC                    | 2,278.00  | 0.00      |
| Eunice UMC                   | 8,872.00  | 0.00      |
| Fairview UMC                 | 3,478.00  | 100.00    |
| Florien Prospect UMC         | 3,134.00  | 2,630.00  |
| Grand Chenier UMC            | 4,049.00  | 0.00      |
| Gueydan UMC                  | 9,310.00  | 9,310.00  |
| Hackberry UMC                | 1,410.00  | 400.00    |
| Haskins Chapel UMC           | 561.00    | 0.00      |
| Hayes UMC                    | 1,594.00  | 480.00    |
| Holly Grove UMC              | 2,665.00  | 5,748.28  |
| Hopewell UMC                 | 2,141.00  | 2,141.00  |
| Hornbeck UMC                 | 1,921.00  | 2,750.00  |
| Iota UMC                     | 1,264.00  | 200.00    |
| Iowa UMC                     | 6,435.00  | 5,085.00  |
| Jennings First UMC           | 17,114.00 | 3,849.00  |
| Jennings Trinity UMC         | 4,768.00  | 770.00    |
| Kaplan UMC                   | 1,494.00  | 1,494.00  |
| Kinder UMC                   | 5,003.00  | 2,280.00  |
| Korean UMC                   | 4,352.00  | 0.00      |
| Lake Arthur UMC              | 6,682.00  | 0.00      |
| Lake Charles First UMC       | 60,593.00 | 33,295.00 |
| Leesville First UMC          | 14,174.00 | 14,257.00 |
| Leesville Mt. Zion UMC       | 1,458.00  | 250.00    |
| Macedonia UMC                | 1,331.00  | 450.00    |
| Mallalieu UMC                | 866.00    | 0.00      |
| Maxie UMC                    | 1,051.00  | 0.00      |
| Merryville UMC               | 2,416.00  | 760.00    |
| Moss Bluff UMC               | 10,806.00 | 1,079.00  |
| Oak Park UMC                 | 14,466.00 | 18,285.00 |
| Oakdale UMC                  | 8,897.00  | 5,726.50  |
| Oberlin UMC                  | 830.00    | 0.00      |
| Pine Grove UMC               | 293.00    | 293.00    |
| Pine Prairie UMC             | 913.00    | 913.00    |
| Raymond UMC                  | 4,508.00  | 3,343.00  |
| Roanoke UMC                  | 6,468.00  | 2,320.00  |
| Squyres UMC                  | 4,500.00  | 2,826.63  |
| St. Luke-Simpson UMC         | 38,200.00 | 13,335.75 |
| Sulphur, Henning Mem UMC     | 44,719.00 | 38,344.82 |
| Sulphur, Maplewood UMC       | 8,110.00  | 560.00    |
| Sulphur, Wesley UMC          | 12,437.00 | 2,210.00  |
| Sweetlake UMC                | 4,718.00  | 54.00     |
| University UMC, Lake Charles | 43,672.00 | 7,593.00  |
| Ville Platte UMC             | 1,426.00  | 200.00    |
| Vinton Welsh Mem UMC         | 5,662.00  | 2,075.00  |
| Warren UMC                   | 12,880.00 | 2,000.00  |
| Welsh Jones UMC              | 2,162.00  | 175.00    |
| Welsh UMC                    | 9,636.00  | 2,370.00  |
| Westlake UMC                 | 13,063.00 | 139.00    |



Warm Hugs ♦ Home Made Cookies ♦ Quiet Talks  
Christmas Traditions ♦ Picnics ♦ Birthday Cake  
Scraped Knees ♦ Vegetable Gardens ♦ Little League  
Piano Lessons ♦ Bedtime Prayers ♦ Dried Tears  
Kittens ♦ Back to School ♦ Lunch Boxes ♦ Dance Classes  
Swing sets ♦ Hot Chocolate ♦ Lemonade Stands  
Allowances ♦ Easter Dresses ♦ Fairy Tales ♦ Bag Lunches  
Popcorn Balls ♦ Lullabies ♦ Homework ♦ Beautiful Eyes  
Fresh Flowers ♦ Puppies ♦ Playing ♦ Kool-Aid  
Homemade Ornaments ♦ Hair Ribbons ♦ Sunday School  
School Mornings ♦ Christmas Stockings ♦ Breakfast  
Birthday Surprises ♦ Summer Vacations ♦ Dinner Time  
Laughing ♦ Peanut Butter & Jelly ♦ Corsages

There is no Substitute for a Good  
**MOTHER**

Louisiana  
Methodist Children's Home  
Mother's Day Offering







**MONROE DISTRICT**

| CHURCH                  | GOAL      | TOTAL PD  |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Bartholomew UMC         | 1,365.00  | 0.00      |
| Baskin UMC              | 561.00    | 561.00    |
| Bastrop First UMC       | 23,853.00 | 16,244.18 |
| Beekman UMC             | 1,213.00  | 0.00      |
| Boeuf Prairie UMC       | 3,557.00  | 1,208.00  |
| Claiborne UMC           | 6,438.00  | 0.00      |
| Clayton UMC             | 523.00    | 25.00     |
| Collinston UMC          | 2,864.00  | 480.00    |
| Columbia First UMC      | 10,299.00 | 3,595.00  |
| Crew Lake UMC           | 6,258.00  | 0.00      |
| Crowville UMC           | 0.00      | 2,048.00  |
| Delhi UMC               | 7,581.00  | 0.00      |
| Epps UMC                | 2,644.00  | 1,944.00  |
| Faith UMC               | 12,814.00 | 3,829.00  |
| Ferriday UMC            | 9,095.00  | 1,400.00  |
| Floyd UMC               | 1,109.00  | 100.00    |
| Forest UMC              | 779.00    | 0.00      |
| Gilbert UMC             | 2,799.00  | 2,799.00  |
| Grayson UMC             | 5,006.00  | 3,984.50  |
| Harrisonburg UMC        | 1,081.00  | 1,081.00  |
| Hebert UMC              | 1,702.00  | 1,270.00  |
| Holly Ridge UMC         | 801.00    | 1,001.00  |
| Kilbourne UMC           | 5,310.00  | 50.00     |
| Lake Providence UMC     | 13,020.00 | 15,295.00 |
| Lawson Chapel UMC       | 366.00    | 0.00      |
| Lea Joyner Memorial UMC | 39,129.00 | 3,010.00  |
| Little Creek UMC        | 1,728.00  | 0.00      |
| Locust Grove UMC        | 1,829.00  | 25.00     |
| Mangham UMC             | 3,979.00  | 740.00    |
| McGuire UMC             | 22,804.00 | 11,805.00 |
| Memorial UMC            | 5,788.00  | 3,200.00  |
| Mer Rouge UMC           | 7,338.00  | 7,338.00  |
| Monroe First UMC        | 67,800.00 | 41,331.00 |
| Monroe Hope UMC         | 0.00      | 0.00      |
| Monroe Memorial UMC     | 11,208.00 | 1,030.00  |
| Monroe St. Pauls UMC    | 56,799.00 | 51,736.00 |
| Mt. Nebo UMC            | 710.00    | 743.00    |
| Mt. Olive UMC           | 2,347.00  | 0.00      |
| Mt. Sinai UMC           | 1,357.00  | 0.00      |
| Newellton UMC           | 7,422.00  | 151.00    |
| Oak Grove UMC           | 7,291.00  | 200.00    |
| Oak Ridge UMC           | 2,825.00  | 500.00    |
| Pioneer UMC             | 1,844.00  | 1,800.00  |
| Rayville UMC            | 18,051.00 | 21,500.00 |
| Reveille UMC            | 2,599.00  | 405.00    |
| Sicily Island UMC       | 6,144.00  | 1,120.00  |
| St. Andrew's UMC        | 5,301.00  | 5,134.12  |
| St. James UMC, Monroe   | 2,159.00  | 0.00      |
| St. Joseph UMC          | 2,784.00  | 2,865.00  |
| St. Mark's UMC          | 0,874.00  | 2,602.00  |
| St. Paul UMC            | 1,779.00  | 0.00      |
| St. Peter UMC           | 600.00    | 0.00      |
| Tallulah UMC            | 13,073.00 | 13,794.00 |
| Union UMC               | 1,462.00  | 0.00      |
| Vidalia UMC             | 8,516.00  | 900.00    |
| W Monroe Asbury UMC     | 9,760.00  | 7,642.00  |
| W Monroe First UMC      | 32,499.00 | 10,641.40 |
| Washington Chapel UMC   | 1,431.00  | 0.00      |
| Waterproof UMC          | 3,110.00  | 300.00    |
| Wesley                  | 615.00    | 768.75    |
| Willite UMC             | 1,181.00  | 0.00      |
| Winnsboro First UMC     | 13,770.00 | 4,945.00  |
| Wisner UMC              | 3,693.00  | 1,693.00  |
| Woodlawn UMC            | 2,462.00  | 100.00    |

**NORTH SHORE DISTRICT**

| CHURCH                   | GOAL      | TOTAL PD  |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Aldersgate UMC           | 56,388.00 | 30,235.72 |
| Amite UMC                | 15,019.00 | 9,740.00  |
| Bogalusa ESM UMC         | 20,491.00 | 21,120.00 |
| Bush UMC                 | 2,723.00  | 6,588.00  |
| Centenary UMC            | 15,559.00 | 7,716.50  |
| Center UMC               | 1,507.00  | 1,507.00  |
| Church of the Servant    | 0.00      | 0.00      |
| Coopers Chapel UMC       | 776.00    | 776.00    |
| Corbin UMC               | 937.00    | 0.00      |
| Covington First UMC      | 21,645.00 | 7,495.00  |
| Darlington UMC           | 1,442.00  | 3,442.00  |
| Day's UMC                | 3,700.00  | 3,700.00  |
| Denham Springs First UMC | 28,786.00 | 20,915.25 |
| Fisher UMC               | 1,741.00  | 1,060.00  |
| Fitzgerald               | 5,158.00  | 2,387.00  |
| Friendship UMC           | 4,368.00  | 3,600.00  |
| Greensburg UMC           | 6,103.00  | 6,104.00  |
| Hammond First UMC        | 26,889.00 | 27,292.00 |
| Harry's Chapel UMC       | 1,432.00  | 600.00    |

**BATON ROUGE DISTRICT (continued)**

| CHURCH                     | GOAL      | TOTAL PD  |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Hartzell Mt. Zion UMC      | 11,144.00 | 3,020.00  |
| Hayes Chapel UMC           | 1,981.00  | 100.00    |
| Huff Chapel UMC            | 1,635.00  | 925.00    |
| Independence UMC           | 1,121.00  | 2,090.00  |
| James Chapel UMC           | 1,681.00  | 3,281.00  |
| Kentwood UMC               | 5,530.00  | 1,090.00  |
| Lacombe UMC                | 6,059.00  | 2,117.00  |
| Lee's Landing UMC          | 2,546.00  | 2,730.00  |
| Live Oak, Angie            | 1,729.00  | 2,729.00  |
| Live Oak, Watson           | 19,204.00 | 7,288.97  |
| Livingston UMC             | 2,152.00  | 2,152.00  |
| Loranger UMC               | 3,673.00  | 3,707.40  |
| Mangum Chapel UMC          | 2,383.00  | 2,384.00  |
| Marys Chapel UMC           | 3,028.00  | 1,600.00  |
| Maurepas UMC               | 822.00    | 525.00    |
| Montpelier UMC             | 1,770.00  | 1,790.00  |
| Mt. Hermon UMC             | 928.00    | 420.00    |
| Nesom Memorial UMC         | 2,303.00  | 2,475.00  |
| Newell UMC                 | 1,776.00  | 0.00      |
| Pearl River UMC            | 5,895.00  | 0.00      |
| Pine Grove UMC             | 2,836.00  | 3,290.00  |
| Pine Ridge UMC             | 2,604.00  | 2,604.50  |
| Ponchatoula First UMC      | 15,938.00 | 9,311.00  |
| Roberts UMC                | 8,023.00  | 5,005.75  |
| Slidell First UMC          | 43,540.00 | 26,005.99 |
| Springfield First UMC      | 3,725.00  | 1,460.00  |
| St. James UMC              | 942.00    | 100.00    |
| St. Luke UMC               | 3,658.00  | 3,605.00  |
| St. Timothy Northshore UMC | 39,326.00 | 20,499.99 |
| Sun UMC                    | 907.00    | 1,007.00  |
| Talisheek UMC              | 796.00    | 200.00    |
| Tangipahoa UMC             | 3,703.00  | 700.00    |
| Thirkield UMC              | 1,912.00  | 1,850.00  |
| Varnado UMC                | 2,798.00  | 902.50    |
| Waldheim UMC               | 1,753.00  | 637.55    |
| Walker UMC                 | 8,480.00  | 1,365.00  |
| Wesley Chapel              | 2,753.00  | 2,753.00  |
| Wesley Chapel UMC          | 987.00    | 1,000.00  |
| Wesley Ray UMC             | 5,131.00  | 1,000.00  |
| Winan UMC                  | 5,771.00  | 4,000.00  |

**NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT**

| CHURCH                    | GOAL      | TOTAL PD  |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Algiers First UMC         | 7,549.00  | 1,562.00  |
| Arabi UMC                 | 2,423.00  | 250.00    |
| Aurora UMC                | 45,265.00 | 17,235.00 |
| Belle Chasse UMC          | 5,219.00  | 628.50    |
| Bethany UMC               | 23,488.00 | 1,517.00  |
| Boynton UMC               | 4,985.00  | 1,200.00  |
| Brooks UMC                | 8,973.00  | 0.00      |
| Buras Trinity UMC         | 7,229.00  | 9.70      |
| Carrollton UMC            | 13,029.00 | 1,595.00  |
| Chalmette St. Bernard UMC | 8,331.00  | 260.00    |
| Cornerstone UMC           | 15,095.00 | 1,205.00  |
| El Mesias UMC             | 1,572.00  | 0.00      |
| Felicity UMC              | 2,741.00  | 2,641.00  |
| First Street UMC          | 18,929.00 | 4,800.00  |
| Golden Meadow UMC         | 9,370.00  | 4,800.00  |
| Grace UMC                 | 4,947.00  | 500.00    |
| Grand Isle UMC            | 976.00    | 976.00    |
| Gretna UMC                | 25,488.00 | 12,865.00 |
| Hahnville St. James UMC   | 1,074.00  | 400.00    |
| Harahan St. Paul UMC      | 12,475.00 | 8,456.00  |
| Hartzell UMC              | 9,637.00  | 1,419.00  |
| Haven UMC                 | 8,235.00  | 0.00      |
| Hope Chapel UMC           | 539.00    | 0.00      |
| Jefferson UMC             | 6,970.00  | 1,230.00  |
| John Wesley UMC           | 1,108.00  | 0.00      |
| Kenner First UMC          | 12,890.00 | 2,162.50  |
| Laharpe UMC               | 5,321.00  | 728.00    |
| Lake Vista UMC            | 16,373.00 | 634.00    |
| Laplace First UMC         | 12,259.00 | 850.00    |
| Luling UMC                | 12,843.00 | 0.00      |
| Messiah UMC               | 3,686.00  | 945.00    |
| Metairie UMC              | 4,930.00  | 720.00    |
| Mt. Zion, New Orleans     | 28,695.00 | 2,551.45  |
| Munholland UMC            | 72,318.00 | 65,840.54 |
| Napoleon Avenue UMC       | 4,850.00  | 1,213.00  |
| New Orleans Asbury UMC    | 5,235.00  | 1,280.35  |
| New Orleans First UMC     | 27,406.00 | 235.69    |
| New Orleans Korean UMC    | 3,742.00  | 1,000.00  |
| Parker Memorial UMC       | 5,780.00  | 0.00      |
| Peck UMC                  | 10,049.00 | 75.00     |
| Peoples UMC               | 3,121.00  | 0.00      |
| Philips Memorial UMC      | 6,623.00  | 0.00      |



**NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT (continued)**

| CHURCH                  | GOAL      | TOTAL PD  |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Rayne Memorial UMC      | 73,733.00 | 27,471.97 |
| Ross UMC                | 2,669.00  | 0.00      |
| Shaw Temple UMC         | 2,544.00  | 310.00    |
| St. Charles UMC         | 14,278.00 | 11,688.00 |
| St. Luke's, New Orleans | 20,268.00 | 15,865.00 |
| St. Marks UMC           | 1,606.00  | 505.00    |
| St. Matthew UMC         | 4,572.00  | 816.00    |
| St. Matthews UMC        | 32,305.00 | 5,435.00  |
| St. Philip UMC          | 2,586.00  | 100.00    |
| Thomas UMC              | 2,499.00  | 1,250.00  |
| Thompson UMC            | 6,988.00  | 55.00     |
| Trinity UMC             | 3,711.00  | 50.00     |
| Trinity of Gentilly UMC | 8,103.00  | 440.00    |
| Wesley, New Orleans     | 3,749.00  | 680.00    |
| Williams UMC            | 3,608.00  | 0.00      |

**RUSTON DISTRICT**

| CHURCH                   | GOAL       | TOTAL PD  |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Ansley UMC               | 1,046.00   | 1,396.00  |
| Arcadia UMC              | 16,102.00  | 2,835.00  |
| Arizona UMC              | 784.00     | 1,500.00  |
| Athens UMC               | 1,976.00   | 600.00    |
| Beech Grove UMC          | 330.00     | 0.00      |
| Bernice UMC              | 6,140.00   | 3,655.00  |
| Bethel UMC               | 1,222.00   | 0.00      |
| Bethlehem UMC            | 540.00     | 740.00    |
| Beulah UMC               | 1,206.00   | 1,400.00  |
| Bienville UMC            | 1,556.00   | 200.00    |
| Bird's Chapel UMC        | 1,743.00   | 300.00    |
| Brushwood UMC            | 3,034.00   | 1,400.00  |
| Castor UMC               | 1,561.00   | 0.00      |
| Centerpoint UMC          | 1,275.00   | 1,283.54  |
| Chatham UMC              | 5,943.00   | 1,218.54  |
| Choudrant UMC            | 2,615.00   | 3,260.00  |
| Clay UMC                 | 2,490.00   | 2,514.90  |
| Colquitt UMC             | 662.00     | 662.00    |
| Concord UMC              | 725.00     | 1,000.00  |
| Cotton Valley UMC        | 3,692.00   | 515.00    |
| Crossroads UMC           | 1,210.00   | 0.00      |
| Dodson UMC               | 753.00     | 1,418.54  |
| Douglas UMC              | 3,956.00   | 4,956.00  |
| Downsville UMC           | 7,559.00   | 2,500.00  |
| Doyline UMC              | 3,454.00   | 0.00      |
| Dubach UMC               | 6,806.00   | 4,565.00  |
| Eros Antioch UMC         | 1,265.00   | 0.00      |
| Eros UMC                 | 3,665.00   | 300.00    |
| Evergreen UMC            | 1,244.00   | 1,244.00  |
| Farmerville UMC          | 15,529.00  | 775.00    |
| Gibbsland UMC            | 3,156.00   | 4,000.00  |
| Harmony Chapel UMC       | 2,811.00   | 2,811.00  |
| Haynesville UMC          | 17,321.00  | 3,439.00  |
| Heflin UMC               | 3,296.00   | 9,126.00  |
| Hodge UMC                | 5,682.00   | 8,336.73  |
| Homer UMC                | 19,935.00  | 14,994.00 |
| Indian Village UMC       | 1,509.00   | 0.00      |
| Jonesboro UMC            | 14,512.00  | 14,512.00 |
| Lisbon UMC               | 2,048.00   | 1,172.00  |
| Marion UMC               | 2,927.00   | 67.00     |
| Memorial UMC             | 3,441.00   | 1,092.00  |
| Minden First UMC         | 42,338.00  | 52,141.24 |
| Minden Lakeview UMC      | 13,111.00  | 13,769.31 |
| Mount Zion UMC           | 3,031.00   | 817.00    |
| Mt. Mariah UMC           | 1,782.00   | 2,682.00  |
| Mt. Nebo UMC             | 745.00     | 0.00      |
| New Hope UMC             | 600.00     | 4,518.54  |
| Oak Grove UMC, Gibbsland | 1,171.00   | 2,463.75  |
| Pilgrim Rest UMC         | 1,098.00   | 1,348.00  |
| Pine Grove UMC           | 3,826.00   | 3,826.00  |
| Pleasant Valley UMC      | 2,618.00   | 130.00    |
| Quitman UMC              | 3,261.00   | 4,236.54  |
| Ringgold UMC             | 8,127.00   | 1,430.00  |
| Ruston Faith UMC         | 2,566.00   | 1,000.00  |
| Ruston Grace UMC         | 19,223.00  | 3,716.00  |
| Ruston Trinity UMC       | 100,833.00 | 89,760.24 |
| Ruston Wesley Chapel UMC | 4,336.00   | 2,428.00  |
| Salem UMC                | 3,006.00   | 1,015.92  |
| Sarepta UMC              | 754.00     | 800.00    |
| Shongaloo UMC            | 2,582.00   | 2,600.00  |
| Sibley UMC               | 390.00     | 385.00    |
| Simsboro Antioch UMC     | 0.00       | 1,200.00  |
| Springhill UMC           | 20,932.00  | 12,930.65 |

**RUSTON DISTRICT (continued)**

| CHURCH               | GOAL     | TOTAL PD |
|----------------------|----------|----------|
| Summerfield UMC      | 486.00   | 486.00   |
| Wesley Chapel, Homer | 3,747.00 | 5,413.00 |
| Whitehall UMC        | 827.00   | 0.00     |

| CHURCH                   | GOAL       | TOTAL PD  |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Barksdale UMC            | 7,140.00   | 2,714.10  |
| Bayou Scie UMC           | 2,683.00   | 312.00    |
| Belcher UMC              | 1,933.00   | 400.00    |
| Benton UMC               | 12,761.00  | 5,225.75  |
| Bethany UMC              | 1,772.00   | 900.00    |
| Bethel UMC               | 2,695.00   | 977.50    |
| Blanchard UMC            | 12,557.00  | 860.00    |
| Bonchest UMC             | 1,627.00   | 0.00      |
| Bossier City Asbury UMC  | 13,692.00  | 9,518.03  |
| Bossier City First UMC   | 61,838.00  | 3,942.00  |
| Bradford Chapel UMC      | 682.00     | 10.00     |
| Broadmoor, Shreveport    | 128,416.00 | 7,413.74  |
| Caddo Heights UMC        | 5,295.00   | 3,140.00  |
| Cedar Grove UMC          | 5,636.00   | 2,480.00  |
| Christ UMC               | 42,282.00  | 9,115.00  |
| Converse UMC             | 624.00     | 624.00    |
| Coushatta UMC            | 10,702.00  | 2,755.00  |
| Cross Roads UMC          | 1,541.00   | 800.00    |
| Ellerbe Road UMC         | 5,914.00   | 6,000.00  |
| Fairfield UMC            | 5,353.00   | 50.00     |
| Fairview UMC             | 1,953.00   | 20.00     |
| Faith UMC                | 5,139.00   | 250.00    |
| Fellowship UMC           | 7,380.00   | 5,260.00  |
| Gilliam UMC              | 4,451.00   | 20.00     |
| Grace UMC                | 10,453.00  | 13,125.00 |
| Grand Cane UMC           | 2,227.00   | 2,317.13  |
| Greenwood UMC            | 7,807.00   | 260.00    |
| Hall Summit UMC          | 1,057.00   | 0.00      |
| Haughton UMC             | 3,583.00   | 1,888.00  |
| Hosston UMC              | 3,314.00   | 3,314.00  |
| Ida UMC                  | 2,412.00   | 2,412.00  |
| James Chapel UMC         | 374.00     | 10.00     |
| Jewella UMC              | 1,267.00   | 1,267.00  |
| Johnson Chapel UMC       | 1,556.00   | 880.75    |
| Keatchie UMC             | 438.00     | 30.00     |
| Keithville UMC           | 3,775.00   | 2,571.00  |
| Lakeview UMC             | 16,397.00  | 16,397.00 |
| Logansport UMC           | 8,062.00   | 1,175.00  |
| Longstreet UMC           | 1,187.00   | 20.00     |
| Love Chapel UMC          | 9,652.00   | 3,478.00  |
| Mangum UMC               | 29,670.00  | 9,082.65  |
| Mansfield UMC            | 17,617.00  | 14,335.13 |
| Many UMC                 | 15,466.00  | 2,561.00  |
| McDonald UMC             | 1,044.00   | 111.00    |
| Mitchell UMC             | 742.00     | 800.00    |
| Mooringsport UMC         | 5,945.00   | 6,068.84  |
| Morningside UMC          | 11,140.00  | 14,140.50 |
| Mt. Zion UMC, Logansport | 2,092.00   | 10.00     |
| Mt. Zion, Shreveport     | 2,273.00   | 1,000.00  |
| New Light UMC            | 1,218.00   | 16.00     |
| Noble UMC                | 1,043.00   | 1,168.00  |
| Noel Memorial UMC        | 104,713.00 | 14,105.00 |
| North Highland UMC       | 18,334.00  | 4,626.00  |
| Oil City UMC             | 1,920.00   | 1,920.00  |
| Pelican UMC              | 1,795.00   | 5,000.00  |
| Plain Dealing UMC        | 9,009.00   | 900.00    |
| Pleasant Hill UMC        | 1,795.00   | 1,810.00  |
| Pleasant Valley          | 940.00     | 12.00     |
| Rodessa UMC              | 780.00     | 780.00    |
| Rosa UMC                 | 325.00     | 335.00    |
| Round Grove UMC          | 1,143.00   | 1.00      |
| Shady Grove UMC          | 5,232.00   | 5,254.00  |
| Shiloh UMC               | 1,509.00   | 0.00      |
| Shreveport First UMC     | 185,141.00 | 7,781.15  |
| Shreveport Trinity UMC   | 5,373.00   | 1,650.00  |
| St. James, Shreveport    | 7,171.00   | 3,315.50  |
| St. Luke's, Shreveport   | 20,323.00  | 4,416.55  |
| St. Matthew UMC          | 871.00     | 10.00     |
| St. Paul UMC             | 7,496.00   | 10.00     |
| Summer Grove UMC         | 24,990.00  | 6,935.22  |
| Vivian UMC               | 18,013.00  | 3,012.00  |
| Walker's Chapel UMC      | 974.00     | 100.00    |
| Wesley Chapel UMC        | 1,301.00   | 1,301.00  |
| Wesley UMC               | 5,504.00   | 5,504.00  |
| Zwolle UMC               | 4,753.00   | 5,862.00  |



## Thoughts from the district superintendent

A new adventure can be scary, challenging or it can be met with great anticipation. As you know by now, our conference is moving into a new ministry mode which most of us believe is an incredible opportunity for ministry to become "hands on" in every local church in Louisiana. Our District Ministry Team is in place and I believe we have an able leader in Verna Myers, district missionary.



Jimmie D. Pyles

new, obtainable goals, with the will to be the church God has intended. Remember, the Lord said "I make all things new" and he used people who were energized, who spoke from experience rather than theory, and whose hearts had been strangely warmed by the power of His holy spirit. Welcome aboard as we journey together and know that we are partners for the sake of the kingdom.

Under the new format of the Louisiana United Methodist Review, a page will be provided for each district to fill every six weeks. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the churches in our district to communicate on a state level, as well as a means of telling each other what's going on within the district.

If you have articles, stories and/or pictures that you want to be included in the Ruston District page, please contact our communication advisor, Carol Stewart at (318) 843-6329, (318) 263-2031, or e-mail her at [stew@iamerica.net](mailto:stew@iamerica.net).

## A missionary's moment

Verna Myers, District Missioner

*"The third that is left I will test with fire, purifying them like silver, testing them like gold. Then they will call on me, and I will answer them. I will say, 'You are my people,' and they will say, 'The Lord is our God.'" (Zec 13:9 NCV)*

Move to the edge of your seats. Listen beyond the distractions that surround you. Look with eyes of expectation as the curtain begins to rise. Trumpets sounding and pounding hoofbeats announce that even now our hero returns to the stage.

In the Louisiana United Methodist Church, I sense excitement. For God's faithfulness is everlasting and his plans for refining, restoring, and renewing are already under way. As the third century

approaches, I am reminded that from the beginning God's intention for humankind was relational interaction. We are more than observers of history. We are participants and co-creators with Christ.

Current changes in our conference structure and forms of ministry are the inevitable work of the Holy Spirit testing and purifying the church for her mission. This processing is God's response to our fervent prayers for revival. Being the people of God, proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord comes with perfecting.

Purest gold, finest silver, know that our God is with us, transforming us into His own image....fit for His kingdom, food for the world.

## Souper Saturday program warms recipients, servers

By Marsha Watts

From its beginning in December 1996, Souper Saturday, a program at Lakeview UMC in Minden which provides lunch to shut-ins, has been a resounding hit! It began as a United Methodist Women-sponsored event and has grown to be a monthly program that has been met with great enthusiasm by both recipients and servants.

The Souper Saturdays program makes 95-100 eagerly accepted deliveries of soup on the last Saturday of each month. The recipients are not only church members, but include a growing number of house-

bound elderly people as well as some who just enjoy receiving a little visit and a soup lunch that they don't have to prepare themselves.

Different cooks have prepared a variety of soups during the year, including senate navy bean, beefy vegetable, cheesy potato, chicken corn chowder, taco, and Rev. Wayne Howington's chili bean soup, just to name a few! Each soup meal includes a special dessert made by a Lakeview volunteer.

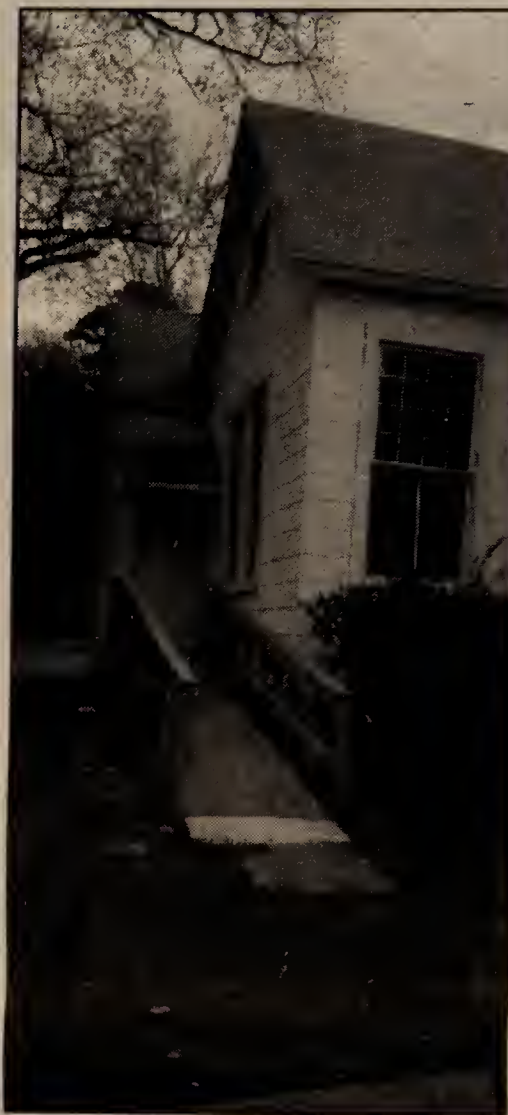
The soup program operates on a volunteer basis. The youth group, as well as many of the adult Sunday school classes, regularly volunteer to deliver and help with the cooking and clean up. In the beginning there were lots of doubts voiced about the need for such a program, but now the only concern is having enough pots in which to cook enough soup!

Souper Saturday has been a blessing to all the recipients, but the greatest reward has come to those involved with the preparations and deliveries each month. After all the work is done, the group sits down together to enjoy their own bowls of soup and the fellowship that comes from a job well done for the Lord.



Verle Hulse (left) and Peggy Jones prepare soup for Souper Saturday at Lakeview UMC.

## One church's story ... Castor UMC grows five times bigger



by Carol Stewart

District Communication Advisor

Just a couple of short years ago, on any average Sunday, a "full house" in the Castor UMC consisted of a whopping eight senior citizens, and it seemed that the little church might not be around much longer. Children grow up and move away and many times they are not replaced by "new" people.

But, God had other plans for this church. Today, Castor UMC is alive! God has breathed new life into this once-struggling little church. Recently, it was reported that forty worshippers attended a Sunday morning service!

Debbie Caskey relates that the Sunday school rooms have been newly painted and decorated and the sounds of children can be heard there for the first time in at least fifteen years. Castor UMC is selling cookbooks to raise money for Bible school this summer. Debbie says the books will be sold "until we have enough money for vacation Bible school."

Other projects, such as constructing a handicapped ramp and repairing the church building have been completed. Doris Boudra and Elaine Wimberly are participating in a DISCIPLE Bible Study and Pastor Joe Hoover says a mission trip is being planned for the summer, in which members of Castor UMC will join forces with workers from Ringgold UMC and Lakeview UMC in Minden.

(If your church has a story to tell, please send it to me at 2013 Highway 794, Gibsland, LA 71028 or e-mail at [stew@iamerica.net](mailto:stew@iamerica.net).)

## RUSTON DISTRICT NEWS

901 S. Vienna  
Ruston, LA 71270  
(318) 255-2690

District Superintendent

Rev. Jimmie D. Pyles

Communication Advisor

Carol Stewart

## A GREAT IDEA!

### Hug-A-Bear project shares love

by Helen Nix

First UMC of Ringgold wanted to do something for the residents of a nurse-care facility located in our community so, we asked members and friends of the church to bring a bear to give to our older citizens. Our goal was to collect 102 bears.

Beginning on the last Sunday in November, members started bringing 12-inch-tall stuffed bears to the church. The bears sat with our church members and were hugged and charged with God's tender, loving care. They even participated in our children's sermon and sat with acolytes and choir alike.

In December, church members delivered the bears to the nursing home. Each had a bright pink tag that said, "Hello, I have been at the First United Methodist Church of Ringgold, where I have been hugged for several weeks. Now I come to share with you the love I received. May you know God's tender loving care."

As is usually the case with love, the hug-a-bear project did as much for our congregation as it did for the nursing home residents.





# Shreveport District News

2911 Centenary Boulevard  
P.O. Box 41188  
Shreveport, LA 71134  
(318) 869-458

## District Superintendent

Dr. Bobby Potter

## District Communication Advisor

Rev. Dale Hensarling

## MEET YOUR MISSIONER ...

Betsy Eaves is the District Missioner for the Shreveport District in the new ministry model for the Louisiana Annual Conference. Betsy, an alumnus of the Centenary College School of Church Careers, received her B.A. in Christian Education. She has been most recently serving the church as director of Shreveport-Bossier Campus Ministry. Prior to that she served as director of Children and Family Ministries at First United Methodist Church, Shreveport.

Asked to introduce herself to the District, she responds:

"Growing up a preacher's kid in West Tennessee, I don't believe I ever once recall saying, 'When I grow up, I want to be a district missioner.' But then, I probably never said that I wanted to be a youth director, a children's director or a campus ministry director, either. Nonetheless, I find myself now doing both.

As district missioners, we are undoubtedly charting new waters. Although it is new to all of us, Rena Yocom is providing valuable direction and we are far from being aimlessly adrift. Our direction is clear and exciting. It is our hope to become channels for resources and communication across the Louisiana Conference.

Any change takes some effort and positive change requires open minds and positive attitudes. It is my prayer that all we do as the church will "so shine before people that they will see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven." As long as I am the Shreveport District missioner, I am committed to seeking God's leading for our work. I covet the prayers of all Louisiana United Methodists as we seek to do God's will through the new structure.

## Shalom Zone blows 'winds of change' to Shreveport District

by Rev. Dale Hensarling  
District Communication Advisor

On a bright windy morning, Thursday Feb. 19, the Shreveport Shalom Zone experience began in the sanctuary of the St. Paul's UMC. Shalom Zone is a United Methodist Initiative for the re-vitalization of communities at the economic, social and spiritual levels.

Rev. George Thomas, pastor of St. Paul's, stressed the need for a catalyst for empowerment in the Allendale and Lakeside communities of Shreveport.

Referring to the economic hardship faced by families in these urban residential areas, particularly in the face of Welfare to Work initiatives, Rev. Thomas said, "There must be someone to come into these areas with a hope and a plan to empower people to regain productive control of their lives. We believe this is what we at St. Paul are here for, and what this Shalom Zone concept is all about."

With the aid of Consultant Leonard Wilmer, the church approached the Foundation for the Mid-South for start-up assistance to establish a coalition of private and public organizations (both religious and secular) and individuals to provide a network through which the Shalom Zone will be established and function. The Foundation responded with a planning grant in the amount of \$5,000 to develop the structure and funding for the Shalom Zone. Dr. Lorenzo Clark, Foundation director and former pastor of the St.

Matthew AME church in Shreveport, presented the check to the church.

Dr. Clark stressed the need for the Shalom Zone "partners to keep talking with each other." This dialogue, he said, is crucial to the process of using the planning grant money to leverage other funding sources for the project. The assessment of needs and resources and development of a comprehensive strategic plan are the primary tasks for which the planning grant is made.

Mayor of Shreveport, Robert "Bo" Williams, present to endorse the Shalom Zone and initiate the city's role as a partner in the project, referred to the effort as a ground-breaking example of the development of new models of collaboration to empower communities like Allendale and Lakeside to restore their vitality as neighborhoods healthy for families and business alike.

The Shalom Zone team has identified three target areas:

1. Programs to prepare people for Welfare to Work,
2. Adequate and accessible child care centers, and
3. Health initiatives for children. Later plans are to develop facilities for adult day-care as well.

The Shalom Zone in Shreveport is reminding people that, when it comes to Shalom, "peace" is an action word. As one wind-blown person said that day, "That's not *El Niño*, that's the winds of change!"

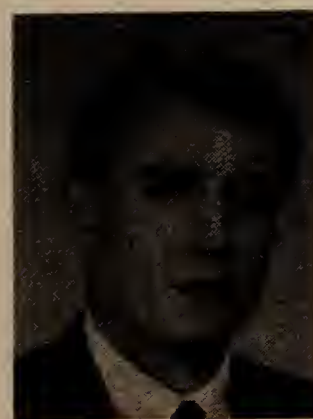


Dr. Lorenzo Clark (left), director, Foundation for the Mid South, presented a check to Rev. George Thomas, pastor, St. Paul's UMC, Shreveport, to fund the formation of the first Shreveport District Shalom Zone.

## THIS IS YOUR PAGE, USE IT!

Submit articles, announcements, photographs to:

Rev. Dale Hensarling,  
District Communication Advisor  
c/o Love Chapel UMC  
4600 Hwy 80 E  
Houghton, LA 71037  
or call 318-949-0430.



Rev. Dale Hensarling

## Benton UMC breaks ground

Older and younger adults, children, dog s, egg-hunters, egg-hiders, a contractor, and two beaming pastors -- put them all together and what do you get? An Easter Sunday Ground-Breaking! Nearly one-hundred excited people saw a dream take tangible form Easter Sunday afternoon when they broke ground (see photo below) for the new Benton UMC building.

A dream which began in 1989, when Rob Weber was pastor, has been prayed, prodded, and nursed into reality as construction begins on a thirteen-thousand square-foot facility with a 250-seat sanctuary, sixteen class rooms, office facilities and a commercial kitchen on eleven beautiful rolling acres just south of the town of Benton on Airline Highway (La. 3).



Following the purchase of the land in 1991, a building committee was named in 1993. In 1995 the financial campaign, "United We Can," was launched, and negotiations with Integrity Incorporated commenced in late 1997. On April 12, 1998, ground was broken on the spot (appropriate for United Methodists) where the kitchen will be built.

Rev. Bill Moon, pastor of the church since 1992, smiles when he mentions the unique way they will tie the traditions of the old church building to the promise of the new. "You'll want to be around," he said, "when we remove the steeple from the old church and haul it down here to be built into the new one. It'll be worth watching!"

"It's been an interesting journey," says Rev. Moon, "but with the work of the great people in this church, and the wisdom and skill of Mark Williamson of Somdal, Inc., and John Thomson of Integrity, Inc., we've been able to put together a remarkable plan."

## Caney celebrates 50!

The spring at Caney Conference Center has been busy! The most recent in week-end special events at the Centre was the Seniors' Day outing on April 30.

Coming up next, on Saturday, May 16, is one of the most exciting events ever at the camp:

It's a Jubilee! Caney Conference Centre is 50-years old!

Anyone who has ever shared the "Caney Experience" is invited to come and celebrate.

Bring a sack lunch; drinks will be provided.





## A WORD TO WITNESS

### A pattern for prayer

by Rev. Dick Humphries

Pastor, St. John's UMC, Baton Rouge

"If the way you pray seems ineffective, why not try what another leader in prayer suggests?" These are words Ben Johnson said to himself after experiencing frustration in his prayer life. In desperation, he took the advice he found in a book by W.E. Sangster entitled *Teach Me To Pray*. That prayer pattern, which I have tried to follow, is one I also offer to you:

As a beginning schedule, try 15 minutes in the morning and five minutes in the evening before retiring. Decide on your time and place and keep to it diligently. Try it for an entire month and observe the difference it makes in your life.

#### IN THE MORNING (15 minutes)

*Be still.* Find a quiet place. Get seated comfortably. Relax. Take a few deep breaths. Remind yourself: I am here to meet God. No other appointment is of more importance. Read a bible verse and think about it.

*Adoration.* Think on the greatness of God. How incredible it is that God knows you and desires to have fellowship with you. God is eager to encounter you. Adore God.

*Thanksgiving.* Name the things God has given you for which you are grateful: family, friends, health, work, the church, fun, food, etc. Picture these gracious gifts and thank God for each one.

*Dedication.* Review the large vows you have taken as a Christian, church member, spouse, employee. Reaffirm these, but also focus intentionally upon this day. Offer your life to God for joyful service today.

*Guidance.* Envision your day with God. Foresee God in each task, each relationship, each opportunity, each

member of your family...and in the unscheduled events and encounters. Ask for God's guidance in each aspect of your day.

*Intercession.* Make a list of persons who need a relationship with Christ. Pray for them daily. Pray also for all you know who suffer in any way. Call out their names in your heart. Picture God transforming each person. Offer a "prayer of presence" by deliberately being with the person for whom you pray.

*Petition.* Tell God what you most deeply desire for your life. "Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive." This is not a blank-check Biblical promise. As you spend time in God's presence, your desires change; God will help you discern the difference between your wants and your needs.

*Act of trust.* Intentionally release your prayers to God and trust God to answer them. (Read Hebrews 11:6)

*Wait.* In the silence, wait to hear what God wishes to say to you. "Speak, Lord, your child listens." Repeat that thought for the day and reflect on it. (Write it on a piece of paper or Post-It Note and carry it with you throughout the day.)

#### IN THE EVENING (5 minutes)

*Confession.* Note your feelings, actions, and choices which have been contrary to God's will in Christ. Be specific. Acknowledge them and accept God's forgiveness.

*Commitment.* Release yourself to God for the night. Pray that you may drift into sleep, conscious of God's loving presence.

I am not saying I have mastered this form of prayer, but it has helped me. Why not try it starting today?

Reprinted from "The Net," St. John's newsletter.

pastors and church staff.

In an April 9 statement, Nugent also expressed his support for efforts in Congress to pass the Cuban Humanitarian Trade Act of 1997, which would lift restrictions on the sale of food and medicine to Cuba. His position is supported by the 1996 General Conference, the denomination's top legislative body.

Under the current U.S. economic embargo, churches and church-related groups must receive government approval to travel to Cuba, to send humanitarian aid or missionaries, or to provide financial support for church projects in Cuba.

The Methodist Church in Cuba has official membership of about 10,000, but it serves a constituency of more than 30,000.

## Louisiana Volunteers in Mission

### Moments in Mission

#### What if I mess up?

by Barbara Baumgarten  
Westlake UMC

The words "I can't" came flowing out of my mouth as easily as water pours downhill. But over a period of one week, those words were stricken from my vocabulary. Encouragement struck the blow that eliminated them.

Our Westlake group was at Mt. Sequoyah, Ark. prepared to renovate the Louisiana Cottage located there. First on the agenda was stripping out all the old

Reply: so. But you don't understand, what if I, well, what if I, uh, did it wrong? Reply: so.

Well, I could see I wasn't getting anywhere fast. Forced to try, I put my first sheet of sheetrock up, then the next. Soon, I was cutting around outlets, beams and actually measuring it "to fit just right." Encouragement to take the step of faith--to TRY--was all it took. Yes, *faith to try!*

By the end of the week, the Louisiana



The Westlake UMC team of (left to right) Marie Marshall, Mertie Miller, Barbara Baumgarten and Thora Donaldson tested their faith by hanging sheetrock in the Louisiana cabin at Mt. Sequoyah, Ark.

paneling, which was fairly easy. Can't mess up too much while ripping out a wall. Then came the next phase, putting up the new wall covering. I had never put up sheetrock before, so the thought of screwing those little sheetrock screws into those walls scared me enough to declare, "I can't;" that's where the encouragement part came in.

This came from our fearless work-camp leader, Janie Burch, and team #1 leader, Bob Marshall. What if I mess up? Reply: so. But what if I cut it wrong?

Cottage at Mt. Sequoyah had been reworked to the point we had hoped it would be. Our job complete, we turned it over to the second phase of the project. Three work-teams worked on this cottage, each giving their individual talents to the job--talents some did not know they had and would never have known they had if it had not been for the encouragement to take that leap of faith. First comes faith, then, with God, "All things are possible"--even hanging sheetrock.

### Arkansas tornadoes: Learning to be a servant

by John H. Richardson  
First UMC, Thibodeaux

Ten people representing three churches in the Acadiana District (First UMC, Thibodeaux; Pharr Chapel UMC, Morgan City and First UMC, Berwick) spent the week of March 23-27 in the Little Rock area of Arkansas doing disaster relief work.

The work included building entrance porches and stairs on mobile homes, which replaced homes destroyed in the series of tornadoes that struck the area March 1. At one location, a house that had been damaged required interior painting, door repair and dirt leveling.

The team of ten (two of whom are pictured right), with Rev. Wybra Price, II of Thibodeaux FUMC and Rev. Sue Pugh of Berwick FUMC as co-team leaders, was housed at FUMC Little Rock. Two team members were assigned as cooks for the kitchen designated for our use.

Although our team was made up of a wide range of ages, there was camaraderie, laughter, prayerful concern for each other, many spiritual moments and many, many blessings.

Each day began with breakfast and a short devotional led by a different team



member. Then it was off to work. We Split up into as many as three work crews to get all our assignments done within the time frame. We did take some time to visit with the families whose homes we were working on and heard their stories of the disastrous tornadoes they experienced. They seemed touched and grateful that teams such as ours would reach out to help them.

After work it was a quick shower, supper and evening devotional, where the same question was asked each night: "Where did you meet Jesus in your activities today?" The responses were enlightening, poignant, spiritual and sometimes surprising.

A wonderful week, a short week...we came home spiritually fed, refreshed and with a bit of first-hand knowledge of the meaning, the value and the satisfaction of being a servant.

## ♦♦♦ You should know ♦♦♦

NEW YORK (UMNS) — The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries has requested a U.S. Treasury license to support important ministries of the Methodist Church in Cuba.

The request follows a recent series of meetings in Cuba involving the Rev. Randolph Nugent, the board's general secretary, other United Methodist church leaders, Cuban Methodist church leaders and Cuban government officials, including President Fidel Castro.

The license would allow the Board of Global Ministries to provide materials and other resources to build or rebuild churches and parsonages in Cuba, according to Nugent.

Other assistance would include humanitarian aid, such as food and medicine, materials for theological education, and salary subsidies for





# AROUND THE CONFERENCE NEWS

## In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to: the family of Mrs. Melonea Conerly, surviving spouse of Rev. Abe M. Conerly (Alexandria District), on her death April 7. Her funeral was held April 9 at Holly Grove UMC in Anacoco.

the family of Rev. Mikel A. Wiley, pastor of Bradford Chapel (Shreveport District), who died April 14. Her funeral was held April 18 in Keithville.

Rev. Debra Peplow, pastor, Maurepas UMC (North Shore District), on the death of her grandfather, Mr. Harry Guy, April 17. His funeral was held in Denham Springs April 20.

Rev. Don Cottrill, pastor, Aldersgate UMC, Slidell, on the death of his mother, Mrs. Ruby Cottrill, April 18. Her funeral was held April 22 at St. John's UMC in Vienna, W. Va. with Bishop Neil L. Irons (Harrisburg Area-Central Penn. Conference) conducting the service.

the family of Rev. William Douglas McLean, assistant dean of students, University of Wisconsin (ABLC-Ruston District), on his death April 21. A memorial service was held in his honor in Jonesboro April 28.

**CONFERENCE OFFICE**  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER: 1.888.239.5286

**Louisiana Conference Edition of the United Methodist Review**  
Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

**EDITORIAL TEAM:**  
Leslie N. Akin, Director,  
Gospel Communications  
Bobbie Armstrong, Editor  
Dr. Alonzo J. Campbell, Liz Lucas

Subscriptions \$12.50 per year  
Send subscriptions, news and information to:

Editor  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
1(888) 239-5286  
(504)346-1646, (504)383-2652 fax  
e-mail: laumc@premier.net

### On the Web

The Louisiana Annual Conference has a newly revised homepage. You can find us at  
<http://www.gbmg-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>.

**DEADLINE FOR:**  
May 15 Issue--May 4

## Important Announcement

**Annual Conference dates:**  
**June 8-11, 1998**

The current 1998. conference year ends June 15, 1998. Pastors going to new appointments will move The new conference year begins June 16, 1998.

## May 31

## Benchmark for 5/12

## "A PORTION MEANT FOR OTHERS"

## SPICE UP YOUR LIFE

### Clergy-Spouse Luncheon at Annual Conference

### Wednesday, June 10

### Broadmoor UMC, Shreveport

### 12 noon--Registration

### 12:30 p.m.--Luncheon

### \$8 per person

*Childcare will be provided. Spouses and guests must register prior to the deadline. No tickets will be available at the door. Deadline for registration is May 25.*

Please send the following information for SPICE UP YOUR LIFE to:

Lisa Hoekstra  
800 Glen Drive  
Winnfield, LA 71483  
(318) 628-3316

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_

Childcare \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No Number & ages of children \_\_\_\_\_

## First UMC Lake Charles will broadcast teleconference!

On Tuesday, May 5, "IT TAKES A CHILD...To see what really matters in the world, To be open to the power of God's love and spirit" will be broadcast live and free from 7-8:30 p.m. at First UMC, Lake Charles.

A joint venture between the Bishops' Initiative on Children & Poverty and the UM Teleconference Connection, the teleconference will celebrate and challenge us about children and poverty.



Participants will include Bishop Marshall Meadors, Jr., chair of the Bishops' Initiative; Bishop Kenneth L. Carder; Peggy Halsey, from the GBGM. Garlinda Burton, editor of *The Interpreter* magazine, will moderate.

If you would like to attend this live broadcast, please contact First UMC at (318) 436-6656. The church is located at 812 Kirkman Street, Lake Charles.

## Conference Program Calendar

|       |       |                                                                              |
|-------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May   | 5-11  | Takin' It To The Streets, Annual Conference, Shreveport                      |
| 4     |       | Annual Louisiana Clergy Open, Rapides Golf & Country Club, Alexandria        |
| 5     | 6-14  | VIM, Belize                                                                  |
|       | 8-11  | Annual Conference, Centenary College, Shreveport                             |
| 11-13 | 9     | LACEF Banquet at Annual Conference, 5:30 p.m., Centenary College Dining Hall |
| 14-17 | 14-20 | VIM Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference                                    |
| 30    |       |                                                                              |
| 31    |       |                                                                              |
| June  | 15    | Bishop's Week, Mt. Sequoyah, Ark.                                            |
| 5-6   |       | DCYM Training, Conference Center                                             |

## NOTEWORTHY ...

The Lake Charles Wesley Foundation Board of Directors is hosting a **farewell party for Rev. Wayne Taylor** on Sunday, May 17, 1:30-4:00 p.m.

After 16 years as Wesley's campus minister at McNeese State University, he will be changing appointment.

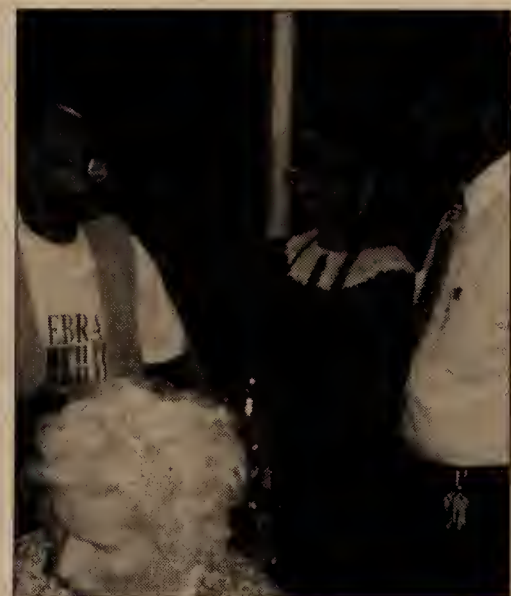
Everyone is invited to share this time of farewell. Contact Vera Coe at (318) 477-3683 for more information.

Don't forget! **Caney Conference Centre** in Minden will celebrate **50 years of camping ministry** on **Saturday, May 17** from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Come any time during the day; stay as long as you want.

Please bring a sack lunch; lemonade, coffee, tea, water and donuts will be provided. Festivities begin at 11 a.m., rain or shine.

Now is the time to plan for your trip to the spectacular Alps and to attend the world's most famous presentation of the Passion of Christ, the **Oberammergau Passion Play**, which takes place only once a decade.

The **summer of 2000** is not that far off and now is the time to reserve your seat for the play and to book accommodations in the area. **Educational Opportunities** is planning a group trip to the Oberammergau Passion Play. Ministers or lay persons are invited to contact Rev. or Mrs. Ira Robinson at (318) 989-8954 for more information or to reserve your spot.



As part of its Older Adults and Visitation Ministries, Wesley UMC, Baton Rouge, invites a nursing care home in the area to the church for lunch and entertainment once a month.

During a recent luncheon event, Rev. Freddie Henderson (far right in photo above), pastor, and a volunteer speak with a diner (left) who had a few words of his own to share about his faith in Jesus Christ.

Rev. Lusinda Warren organizes the luncheons which are prepared and served by volunteers.





# Louisiana

## CONFERENCE edition

Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
504.346.1646  
/504.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

018000

Send PS Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

Vol 15 No 11 ■ May 15 1998

*'Thank you for the faithful work of your servants'*

## Passing of the Mantle to honor Louisiana retirees

by Bobbie Armstrong  
LUM Review Editor

On Wed., June 10, the business session of the 1998 Louisiana Annual Conference will pause for a worship service called "The Passing of the Mantle" to honor over 414 years of faithful service to The United Methodist Church. That's the combined total years of service of the 17 retiring Louisiana Annual Conference ministers being honored this year.

During "The Passing of the Mantle" ceremony, one retiring elder places a ceremonial stole (a sash worn around the neck) on one incoming elder to symbolically represent the passing of leadership from one generation to the next. The stole, an elaborately embroidered silk cloth, was created for this ceremony and is used year after year in this sacred rite of passage. It is symbolic of Elijah passing the mantle to Elisha in 2 Kings.

This year's retirees (pictured right) and their appointments are: Rev. Walter L.

Baker, reinstated from honorable location; Rev. L. Ray Branton, executive director, South Central Jurisdiction; Rev. Joe E. Brown, Washington Circuit; Dr. Stone W. Caraway, executive director, Administrative Services; Rev. George B. Cunningham, Haynesville-Shongaloo; Rev. Wilbur G. Davis, Sr., Roberts-Greenwell Springs, St. Luke; Rev. Andrew J. Douglas, Asbury-St. Matthew; Rev. E. Benjamin Fant, Plain Dealing-Walker's Chapel; Rev. E. Rand Guy, Springfield-Huff Chapel; Rev. Kenneth R. Jones (*not pictured*), First UMC, New Orleans; Rev. Chang Kyu Lee, Korean UMC, New Orleans; Rev. Jarrell R. Morgan, Mooringsport-Oil City-Belcher; Rev. L. Alton Peel, Sr., Faith-Wesley Chapel, Ruston; Dr. Kenneth R. Reed, executive director, United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana; Rev. Oscar Tippin, Jr., Wesley Ray-Live Oak-Mary's Chapel, Angie; Dr. John M. Winn, Jr., director, Center for Pastoral Effectiveness, New Orleans; and Rev. Helena Wright-Butler, Philips Memorial, New Orleans.



Baker



Branton



Brown



Caraway



Cunningham



Davis



Douglas



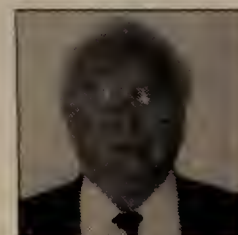
Fant



Guy



Lee



Morgan



Peel



Reed



Tippin



Winn



Wright-Butler

*Creating God, who brought us into this world, breathed your Spirit into us... Thank you for the faithful work of your servants. Thank you for the difference they made, and continue to make, in us. We sensed your presence through them. They fed and sustained us through your Word and Sacraments, and formed us into the family of God. Accept our gratitude and thanksgiving for them, in the name of Christ. Amen.*

From The Passing of the Mantle Service

## State spiritual leaders invited to Ecumenical Breakfast

Bishop Dan Solomon, episcopal leader of Louisiana's United Methodists, has invited judicatory leaders from throughout Louisiana's Christian community to attend an Ecumenical Breakfast at Centenary College in Shreveport Thursday, June 11 at 7 a.m. during Annual Conference.

Ann Marshall, a Native American and associate general secretary of the General Commission on Christian Unity and

Interreligious Concerns of The United Methodist Church will be the featured speaker. She will speak on the Annual Conference theme: "One generation shall tell another the mighty acts of God."

The Ecumenical Breakfast is a yearly event at Annual Conference sponsored by the bishop and the Louisiana Conference CCUIC.

"I have been impressed since coming to Louisiana," says Bishop Solomon,

"with the formal and informal networks that reflect a supportive and collegial environment for cooperative Christian mission."

The breakfast costs \$6 per person and is open to anyone who wishes to attend. Reservations are suggested and can be made by calling Rev. Hulen Warren at (318) 256-3632.

INSIDE LOOK



Expect a  
Blessing !!!  
Page 2

- 2 Ministers' Week
- 2 Russian youth visit
- 3 Your church dollars at work
- 3 The power in weakness
- 4 What's Happening





## Being and Doing

### Expect a Blessing!!!



Dan E. Solomon

To say the words, "going to Annual Conference" connects us with something special, something deep and filled with meaning, something that quickens within us the fires of faith and mission.

Many of us are making our plans to "go to Conference." What does "going to Conference" mean for laity and clergy?

"Going to Conference" means to be connected to an event uniquely Methodist in its history, and specifically discerning in its format. Every year since 1744 Methodist "preachers" have been "going to Conference."

In its earlier days, only clergy were in attendance. The focus was on theological reflection, servant accountability and personal faith growth. In time, laity were incorporated into the "conferencing" event. However, appointment of pastors to their fields of labor has always been a major function of "the Conference."

"Focusing on the mission to which God is calling us" has been our highest priority when we have been "at our best." In those times when we have become excessively inward in our life, "Conference" has degenerated into endless reports about mechanical procedures. While there are some "nuts and bolts" actions we must take, the vitality of Annual Conference is to be found in the praise of God, the joy over transformation being realized in people's lives and the excitement with which we eagerly approach fields ripe unto harvest.

"Going to Conference" means a grand revival. In whatever way one describes the Conference event, if it is not an event that deepens our faith, gladdens our heart and confirms our gratitude for the privilege of serving God's mission, then it is not an event that has accomplished what is needed.

After observing God's redemptive grace touch and change lives during a

conference year, we need the opportunity to praise and thank God. Having struggled amidst

difficult settings for ministry, we need the renewal and hope that Conference offers. Experiencing frustration and isolation as we sometimes do, we need the opportunity that "Conference" provides to "be together in one place" for a fresh experience of the encouraging fellowship and the sympathizing tear that God's spirit can evoke. Knowing how our own zeal often wanes and our own soul becomes malnourished, we look expectantly to "Conference" for the lively and enlivening word of God to inspire us and empower us.

"Going to Conference" means a missional "check up." Perhaps we can view it as a yearly exam of our missional health. "Conference" reminds us of our calling, our character and our concerns. "Conference" asks us about "making the main thing the main thing." "Conference" invites us together to confess our failures and disobedience, to be bathed in God's forgiving grace, and to move out in mission, "all our powers engaged to do our Master's will."

"Going to Conference" is a timeless blessing. It will become a blessing in our time if we "expect a blessing."

Will you join me in praying that Annual Conference will be an awesome experience of worship, a thrilling testimony to God's transformative work and a powerful covenanting with one another to claim this world for Christ?

Expect a blessing !!!

Dan E. Solomon

### Ministers' Week, 1998 July 8-11

Louisiana Conference Center  
Woodworth, LA

Early-bird registration cost is \$50 (postmarked on or before May 29) or \$75 (postmarked after May 29). Checks should be made payable to First United Methodist Church and sent to:

Ministers' Week, 1998, First United Methodist Church, c/o Rev. Flint E. Shea,  
930 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
(504) 383-4777

**Important note: Registration cost is for the workshop only. Accommodations at the Conference Center are separate and should be made through the center's office at (318) 449-4500.**

## Keep the candle burning !!! From Russia with love: Russian youth visit

by Amy Mercer

Asbury UMC, Lafayette

"We thank our Lord for hearing our prayers for help for our children."

(A quote from a recent e-mail exchange from FUMC in Ekaterinberg, Russia)

Rev. Olga Kotsuba and Galina Dracheva were two of the 12 lay ministers who visited the United States in 1994 at the invitation of the Louisiana Annual Conference for the first Russian Ministers' Retreat. One of the lay ministers, Igor Bejunov, who attended the retreat summed it up by saying, "In all the Americans I met, I saw the love of God, the eyes of Christ. I know I'll never forget the eyes, the love. I know I'll never be the same."

Four years later, they still remember and they are willing to trust us with their youth so they may grow healthier "physically and spiritually." Eleven Russian youth (ages 12-17) and four adults will be in our care from July 1-27.

While in Louisiana, they will stay with Lafayette-area families (who will cover daily room and board expenses). A July

4th celebration, vacation Bible school, day mission trips, fellowships, dances, a trip to Astroworld are all in the planning stages. But, the highlight of their trip will be attending CCE (Community Christian Experience) from July 20-25 at Caney Conference Centre in Minden.

Anyone wishing to help support this Russian youth visit can do so by sending a donation (#4488-Y) to the Louisiana

Annual Conference office.

When Galina left in 1994, she presented our church and others with beautiful stone candlesticks made from jasper mined in the Ural Mountains near Ekaterinberg.

At Asbury, our candle has been lit weekly during worship services as a

reminder that we are part of the body of Christ that extends around the world. This is an opportunity to be in mission while staying right here in Louisiana.

We are keeping the candle lit...and our hearts open for these youth

For more information on how to be a part of this experience, call Amy Mercer at Asbury UMC, Lafayette, at (318) 984-4211.



Galina Dracheva presents a candleholder to Asbury UMC pastors in 1994.

## Ministers' Week 1998: 'Feed My Shepherd's'

On behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, it is my pleasure to announce the plans for Ministers' Week, 1998 at the Louisiana Conference Center for Spiritual Renewal in Woodworth this July 8-11. As you know, the mission of the Louisiana Conference is "to raise up spiritual leaders who make disciples for Jesus Christ." Clergy and lay leaders are invited and encouraged to attend this special event.

The speaker for the week is Rev. Marjorie J. Thompson, author of *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*, with the foreword written by Henri J. M. Nouwen. Marjorie is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church USA, and is now working full time with The Upper Room as director of the Pathways Center for Christian Spirituality in Nashville.

Many of us are familiar with the spiritual disciplines and practice them more or less regularly. The week is designed to re-introduce us to those disciplines which nourish and feed our souls. In fact, we can always learn more. She writes:

"This is [a book] for beginners, yet the term "beginner" is deceptive and paradoxical. The more we comprehend of the spiritual life and the longer we try faithfully to live it out, the more we grasp

how simple and primary its essential patterns are. There is a childlike simplicity to Christian spirituality. In a certain sense we never get past practicing the basics. This makes beginners of us all, a truth that is both humbling and freeing. The great sixteenth-century Carmelite nun Teresa of Avila captured the reality well when she wrote, 'No soul on this road is such a giant that it does not often need to become a child at the breast again...For there is no state of prayer, however sublime, in which it is not necessary often to go back to the beginning.'"

Come "back to the beginning" this summer at Ministers' Week. Allow yourself the time to be fed. Enjoy this opportunity to simply receive. And remember that the spiritual disciplines are, as Nouwen writes, "nothing more and nothing less than ways to create a room where Christ can invite us to feast with him at the table of abundance."

Let us break bread together.

Grace and Peace,

Flint E. Shea  
Dean of Ministers' Week



## A WORD TO WITNESS

### The power in weakness

by Rev. Fred Wideman

Pastor, Trinity UMC, Ruston

Corinth was a place for super heroes. There were many gods, each offering a particular strength, something that would make its devotees impervious and invulnerable to the normal human weaknesses. With Greek and Roman gods, and even with Roman military, there was an air of power. Indeed, power was the name of the game.

Even as the Corinthian church developed, it too, was impressed with power. Members boasted of their individual gifts. There was power in spirituality and so the Corinthians quickly became some of the most spiritual people anywhere, at least in their own eyes. They bragged on one Apollos, who was such a powerful, enthusiastic preacher -- never mind that what he was preaching was wrong, he spoke with such power.

And then along comes Paul, apostle to the Gentiles. Paul did not lack confidence, either. But he had a strange way of bragging, especially in a culture so enamored of power. Paul said, "If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness." And in light of his personal problem, his "thorn in the flesh," Paul's word from the Lord was, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness."

Such language was very strange for the culture of Corinth. Such language is strange for America. Most people do not understand it. Indeed, it requires a certain level of faith--an Easter faith--to understand. The resurrection shines an interesting light on our weaknesses.

What kind of resume lists "far greater

labors, far more imprisonments, with countless floggings, and often near death? Five times I have received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked; for a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from bandits, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers and sisters; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, hungry and thirsty, often without food, cold and naked. And, besides other things, I am under daily pressure because of my anxiety for all the churches." (2 Corinthians 11:23-28)

That is not exactly "Preacher of the Year Award" information, not in a culture of power. But in the light of the resurrection, it is different. Like a hologram when held to the light reveals a third dimension, our weaknesses look different in light of the resurrection. God's power is made perfect in our weakness.

Because of the culture of power in which we live, too many people today live under unnecessary guilt and shame because of their human weaknesses. Too many people feel like they are failures because they have a disease called cancer and cannot seem to cure it themselves or have some other situation in their lives they can't control.

You are not a failure, however! Not in light of the resurrection. Hold up your weakness to that light and see if it does not view differently.

*Reprinted from "Trinity Tidings."*

## ◆◆◆ You should know ◆◆◆

### (tidbits that keep you in the know)

**The Diversified Investment Fund** administered by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits performed **better than 86 percent** of other pension funds of similar size for the ten-year period ending Dec. 31, 1997.

Continuing its strong performance, the fund achieved a 10 percent return for the first quarter of 1998. With assets of more than \$10 billion, the fund is among the 100 largest in the U.S. The pension agency administers pension, health, and disability programs for more than 65,000 UM clergy, lay employees, church workers, and their families.—Julie Haugh. *Reprinted from NEWSCOPE*

◆◆◆

**CHICAGO (UMNS)--A task force** studying the funding of United Methodist churchwide ministries will recommend taking the number of members out of the **equation** that the denomination uses to assess the amounts of money it will seek

from each annual (regional) conference.

The churchwide apportionments, as these "fair share" askings are called, will be determined using a new formula if the tentative recommendations made here by the Connectional Ministry Funding Patterns Task Force remain unchanged.

A final decision will be made by the denomination's General Conference, the church's highest legislative assembly, meeting in Cleveland in the year 2000.

The task force crystallized 18 months of intensive work to give direction to a five-person writing team named during the two-day meeting here May 1-2. In addition to questions on churchwide apportionments, which currently account for about \$104.5 million a year, the task force looked at education on Christian stewardship, "prior claims" and other funding issues.

(See <http://www.umc.org/umns/> on the Internet for full story.)

## Epiphany No. 3 planned for Aug. at J.C.C.Y.

Epiphany Ministry of Louisiana, a ministry which takes the love of Jesus Christ to incarcerated youth (similar to the Kairos Prison Ministry), will hold its third retreat at the Jetson Correctional Center for Youth (J.C.C.Y.) in Baton Rouge Aug. 6-9.

Carol Spisak will be the lay director for this event. Training sessions will be held June 27, July 11 and 25 and Aug. 1 at Jefferson UMC in Baton Rouge. Lunch is included.

In order to participate in the August event, you must have an identification card verifying your training at these sessions. The state requires a reapplication for every weekend event, even if you have participated in a past weekend.

Contact the Epiphany Ministry at (504) 753-9141 or 751-2913 for a registration form or if you need more information.

Join us and make a difference in a young person's life.



**Epiphany**  
a poem by B. Connelly

The days seemed dark,  
the future seemed bleak  
Where are the rainbows  
that I seek?

No silver spoons. No silver clouds.  
No one to say I've made them proud.

The rays, I saw them from afar.  
I smiled. It was the Jesus star;

and all the love for which I'd longed,  
was in a manger all along.

No more in darkness do I trod;  
for I have seen the face of God.

His hands, his feet, were shown to me.  
I've seen the light....

Epiphany!

*Reprinted from The Epiphany Star.*

## Your church dollars at work

### Black College Fund helps create 'agents of hope'

by Sara Perez-Poland

United Methodist Communications

By giving to the Black College Fund, you help future leaders obtain the education they need to become agents of hope in their communities. United Methodist-related colleges have a strong effect on future leaders.

According to Clark Atlanta University president Thomas Cole, Jr., "students obtain a better perspective on ethical and moral values than they would in a state or non-church related institution." He was exposed to that perspective while attending Wiley College, another of United Methodism's historically Black colleges.

"Marshall, Texas is a small town, and the college served a major role in bringing cultural, academic and athletic events to the city," Dr. Cole says. He graduated in 1961 with a degree in chemistry and planned to attend graduate school. "I never planned to be a college president," he adds. Today he leads a university of 5,900 students.

The Black College Fund supports 11 historically Black institutions of higher learning. The money given to the Black College Fund is vital to shaping leaders.



Look for  
Tarnisha Adams  
at the Louisiana  
Annual  
Conference.

The fund assists: Bennett College, Greensboro, N.C.; Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Fla.; Claflin College, Orangeburg, S.C.; Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta; **Dillard University, New Orleans**; Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Texas; Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tenn.; Paine College, Augusta, Ga.; Philander Smith College, Little Rock, Ark.; Rust College, Holly Springs, Miss. and Wiley College, Marshall, Tex.

By supporting the Black College Fund, you help provide educational opportunities that may change a person's life. You may be helping a future leader--perhaps a future university president!

**Editor's note: This summer, 12 students attending black UM-related schools will be promoting the Black College Fund at 30 annual conference sessions. Tarnisha Adams, a sophomore at Philander Smith College, will be attending the Louisiana Annual Conference. Please welcome her and support her by supporting the Black College Fund.**

## New book offers ideas on teaching kids to pray

NASHVILLE--A new book from Discipleship Resources, a publishing arm of The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, helps parents encourage spiritual growth in children.

*Hand in Hand: Growing Spiritually with Our Children* by Sue Downing is designed to help parents raise their

children as Christian disciples. In addition to teaching skills for coping with life crises, it contains ideas and activities on how to help children make prayer and reading the Bible a part of their daily lives.

To order a copy (\$16.95), contact them at (800) 685-4370 or on the web at [www.discipleshipresources.org](http://www.discipleshipresources.org).





# AROUND THE CONFERENCE NEWS

## Sign up for VIM youth trip to HPI

High school students in grades 10-12 are invited to join former Conference youth director CeeCee Ross Aug. 9-15 for a Volunteers in Mission youth trip to Heifer Project

International's Service Learning Program in Perryville, Ark.

Cost for the trip is \$200 per person. Only 15 students and five adult leaders will be

allowed on this trip, so sign up TODAY! A \$50 registration fee is due with your application.

Call Dr. Alonzo Campbell at the Conference Office (888) 239-5286 or Cee Cee at (504) 926-5745 for more information or to get a registration form.



## In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to: Mrs. Barbara Pollar, surviving spouse of Rev. Alfred Pollar, Sr. (New Orleans District), on the death of her son, Alfred, Jr. A memorial service was held for him May 2 at Metairie UMC with Rev. Ellen Blue officiating.

Louisiana Conference Edition  
of the  
United Methodist Review  
Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

**EDITORIAL TEAM:**  
Leslie N. Akin, Director,  
Gospel Communications  
Bobbie Armstrong, Editor  
Dr. Alonzo J. Campbell, Liz Lucas

Subscriptions \$12.50 per year  
Send subscriptions, news and  
information to:

Editor  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
1(888) 239-5286  
(504)346-1646, (504)383-2652 fax  
e-mail: laumc@premier.net

### On the Web

The Louisiana Annual Conference has a newly revised homepage. You can find us at

<http://www.gbmg-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>

### DEADLINE FOR:

May 29 Issue-May 18

# Annual Conference 1998 What's Happening

## VIM Takin' It To The Streets

Don't miss this opportunity to be in mission to those in need in the Shreveport area before and during Annual Conference sessions. Come join the excitement of takin' the message of God's love to the streets. Everyone is invited, even if you are not participating in Annual Conference.

Following is a list of events. The deadline to sign up is May 24. Call Dr. Alonzo Campbell at (888)239-5286 or (504) 346-1646 to register today.

● **Hands-on mission experience at a Habitat for Humanity house construction project in the Cedar Grove area.**

● **Hospitality House Soup Kitchen.** Come serve those in need. Also, everyone is asked to bring boxes of macaroni and cheese to be donated to the Soup Kitchen.

● **Block Party Monday, June 8 at 11:30 a.m. at the Hospitality House on Sprague Street with choirs,**

**singing and an address by Bishop Solomon.**

● **Vacation Bible School at Provident House June 8-11.**

● **Revival at Mt. Zion UMC, Shreveport, Saturday, June 6 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, June 7 at 11 a.m.**

● **Painting project at St. James UMC, Shreveport.**

● **Blood mobile will be parked at the Gold Dome daily for blood donations.**



## Other highlights ...

### Speakers will include:

- Rev. John Winn and Rev. Carole Cotton Winn--Opening Communion/Memorial Service
- Dr. Teresa Fry Brown--Monday and Tuesday evenings
- Bishop Dan Solomon--Wednesday evening Ordination and Consecration Service and Tuesday morning Episcopal Address
- Fred Loy, lay leader--Tuesday morning Lay Address

### Worship Services will include:

- Sunrise devotionals at 6:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the Hargrove Memorial Theater (amphitheater) conducted by the Board of Laity.
- Bread of Life Communion services Tuesday and Wednesday in various locations and forms including silence and meditation and Native American Christian Imagery.

# May 31

# Benchmark for 5/12

# "A PORTION MEANT FOR OTHERS"

## Conference Program Calendar

### May

- 30 Conference Center Meeting
- 31 Cabinet Meeting

### June

- 5-6 DCYM Training, Conference Center
- 5-11 Takin' It To The Streets, Annual Conference, Shreveport
- 6-14 VIM, Belize
- 8-11 Annual Conference, Centenary College, Shreveport
- 9 LACEF Banquet at Annual

Conference, 5:30 p.m., Centenary College Dining Hall

14-20 VIM Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference

15-19 Bishop's Week, Mt. Sequoyah, Ark.  
17-21 Cursillo #65, Louisiana Conference Center

19-23 UMW West Gulf Regional School  
22-26 VIM Youth Mission Work Trip, Sager-Brown, Baldwin, La.

22-28 VIM Paoli, Oklahoma

## Historical Society to hold first meeting

One of the first meetings during Annual Conference will be an organizational meeting of the Louisiana United Methodist Historical Society at 9 a.m. Monday, June 9 in the Archives Building (Sam Peters Research Center).

Approved by the Commission on Archives and History at last year's Annual Conference, the Society will be dedicated to stimulating interest in the preservation and dissemination of our Methodist heritage here in Louisiana. In addition to a newsletter, future activities will include an annual dinner, church history workshops and providing assistance with historical events.

And, you don't have to be old and dusty to join! Membership is open to everyone. This is your opportunity to become a part of the community of historians, researchers, local church historians, genealogists and others who care about Louisiana's UM history.

If you cannot make it to this meeting, watch for information in future issues of the Review. Also, more information, including the proposed by-laws for the Society can be found on the Internet at the Archives and History website at [www.gbmg-umc.org/history/](http://www.gbmg-umc.org/history/).

## Round up your jeans for Denim Day



Celebrate Denim Day, Tuesday, June 9, during Annual Conference by wearing denim and bringing new or used denim for those in need.

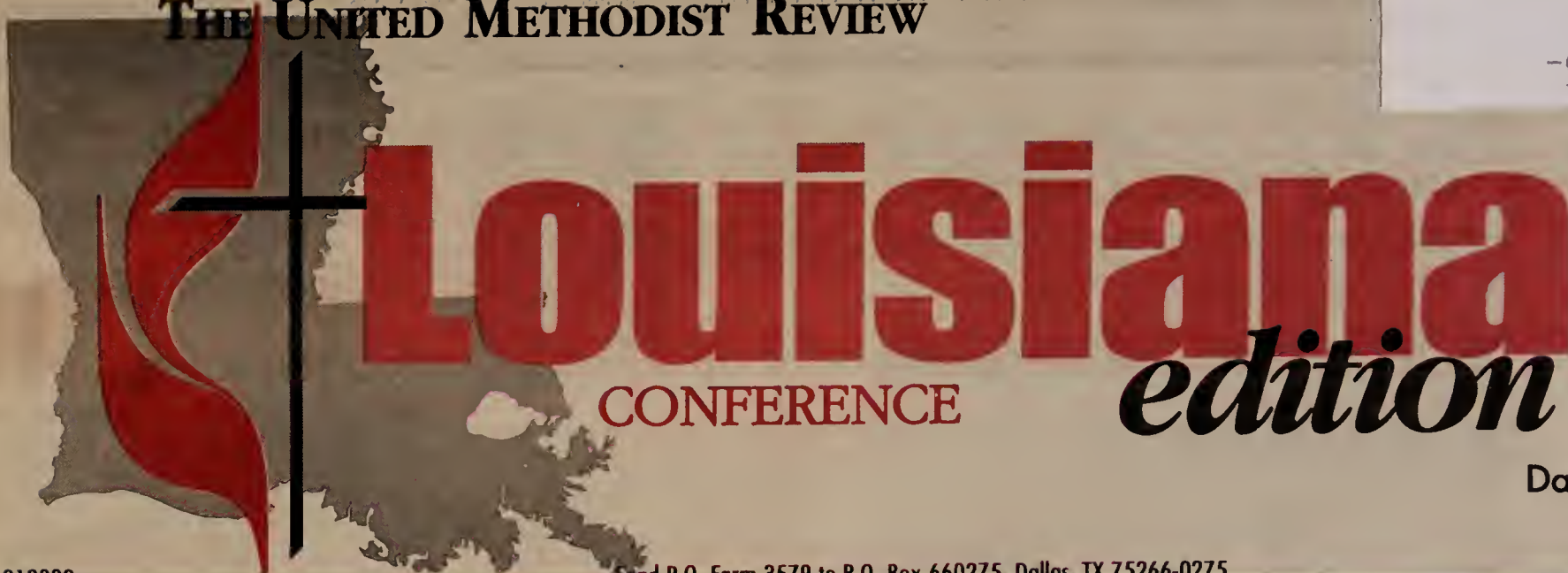
Denim Day is a reminder to pray and work for youth in this, our second year of participation in The Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty.

The denim collected as an offering at Annual Conference will be distributed by UMCOR to children in need here and abroad.

## Bring boxes of macaroni and cheese for Hospitality House

Everyone is asked to bring boxes of macaroni and cheese (any brand) as part of the VIM Takin' It To The Streets project. They will be collected as an offering during Annual Conference and given to the Soup Kitchen at the Hospitality House. Contact Dr. Alonzo Campbell at (888) 239-5286 if you have questions.





Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
504.346.1646  
/504.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

Vol 15 No 12 May 29 1998

018000

Send P.O. Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

*One generation shall tell another the mighty acts of God.* Psalms 145:4

## Annual Conference service will ordain, consecrate Louisiana nominees



Clark



Debo



Foster



B. Hamilton



Shamlin



Sherer



Chapman



Crews

The Board of Ordained Ministry will once again recommend candidates for consecration and ordination at this year's Annual Conference. If approved by the clergy executive session Monday afternoon, nominees will be presented at the Ordination and Consecration Service officiated by Bishop Dan Solomon Wednesday evening at 7:30 in the Gold Dome.

The following (pictured above and right) are nominees:

### Elders in Full Connection

**Karl M. Clark**, pastor, Hartzell UMC, New Orleans; **Curtiss D. Eden** (not pictured), pastor, Raymond-Elton; **Henry M. Hamilton** (not pictured),

pastor, Dubach-Harmony Chapel.

### Permanent Order of Deacon

**Hubert F. Debo**, nurse practitioner, Louisiana State University Medical School, Shreveport; **Carolyn Foster**, director, Christian Education, First UMC, Slidell; **Barbara M. Hamilton**, director, Christian Education, Phillips Memorial UMC, New Orleans; **Brunetta A. Shamlin**, director, Christian Education, Neely UMC, Baton Rouge; **Carol L. Sherer**, director, Christian Education, Rayne Memorial UMC, New Orleans.

### Diaconal Ministers

**Gloria D. Chapman**, Camphor UMC, Baton



Johnson



Scott

Rouge; **Pamela G. Crews**, First UMC, Winnfield; **Bernadine Johnson**, Jubilee Community UMC, Baton Rouge; **Rachel L. Scott**, Noel Memorial UMC, Shreveport.

## Brown to lead worship; Hawn, music at Annual Conference

by Bobbie Armstrong  
Editor, LUM Review

Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown, assistant professor of Homiletics and interim director of the Black Church Studies Program at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, will lead the worship services at Annual Conference Monday and Tuesday evenings and the Bible studies Tuesday and Wednesday mornings in the Gold Dome at Centenary College in Shreveport.

Brown's sermon Monday night, "Are We Doing Justice or Just Us?" will focus on the Biblical imperative (Micah 6: 6-8) that God is a God of justice. "The scriptures teach us to be present with each other, to not exclude anyone and to not be judgmental," she says from her home in Stone Mountain, Ga. "I will try to show, with God's help, that it is to our advantage to follow these imperatives."

On Tuesday evening, her topic will be "Pass It On," in keeping with the Annual



Teresa Fry Brown Michael Hawn

Conference theme, "One generation shall tell another the mighty acts of God." Having written her doctoral dissertation on the intergenerational passage of values, this is an area she knows well. "We will look at the Biblical reality that God uses anything and anyone to teach us and the importance of not cutting ourselves off from those lessons," Brown says.

Brown received her master's and doctorate degrees from the Illiff School of Theology in Denver where she was named Alumnae of the Year in 1994. She also received the Edward C. Herbrand Award for Excellence in Church History

(1992-93) and the 1989 Ronald E. Sleeth Preaching Prize, Outstanding Preacher of the Year award, from Illiff.

An ordained elder in the Fifth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Brown is associate pastor at St. Paul A.M.E. Church in Lithonia, Ga. She is Connectional Consultant for Personal and Organizational Development for A.M.E. Women in Ministry and serves on the editorial board of The African American Pulpit. At Candler, she is faculty advisor to the Black Student Caucus and founder and coordinator of Sistah Circle, a networking and support group for women of color in ministry.

Dr. C. Michael Hawn, associate professor of Church Music at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, will serve as music leader during the Annual Conference sessions.

Hawn holds doctor of Musical Arts and master of Church Music degrees

from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky. Additionally, he has studied at Florida State University (Orff Certification), Oberlin College Baroque Performance Institute and Aston Magna Baroque Performance Institute. A countertenor, Hawn has studied with Russell Oberlin and Rene Jacobs. He is a life member of both Choristers Guild, having served as president of the board of directors, and the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada.

INSIDE

- 2 Pastoral Statement
- 3 Annual Conference agenda
- 4 Acadiana District news
- 5 Alexandria District news
- 6 Baton Rouge District news
- 7 Annual Conference update
- 8 Mt. Sequoyah cabin





## Being and Doing

### A Pastoral Statement from the Council of Bishops

The following pastoral statement was adopted unanimously by the Council of Bishops at its recent meeting:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! We greet you in the name of Jesus Christ who has broken down all dividing walls of hostility and made us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world.

Your bishops recognize and hear the pain within our church surrounding the recent church trial in the Nebraska Conference and the responses to the verdict. We acknowledge the concerns regarding The United Methodist Church's stand on issues, particularly homosexuality and homosexual unions, and the church's ability to maintain discipline, order, and unity.

While recognizing the importance of these issues, we challenge the church to remain focused on the mission of God and our unity in Christ and to set its priorities accordingly. Issues within the church must not be allowed to distract us from the missional needs of the world and our call to make disciples of Jesus Christ. In keeping with the New Testament and our Wesleyan tradition, we affirm that the church's authority and unity are inextricably bound to our sharing in Christ's ministry with and presence among those whom Jesus called "the least of these" (Matthew 25:45).

Although the church trial in the Nebraska Conference heightened concern among many regarding our denomination's position on homosexuality and homosexual unions, the church's position as defined in The Book of Discipline remains unchanged. The Book of Discipline states: "Homosexual persons no less than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth. All persons need the ministry and guidance of the church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. Although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider the practice incompatible with Christian teaching, we affirm that God's grace is available to all. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons." Further, the Discipline states, "Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches." Furthermore, the Book of Discipline states, "...self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be accepted as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church."

We continue the commitment we made in our consecration as bishops "to guard the faith, to seek unity, and to exercise the discipline of the whole church; and to supervise and support the Church's life, work, and mission throughout the world." In covenant with one another, we are committed to uphold the General Conference's action on the theological, ethical, and polity matters defined in The Book of Discipline, including the statements on homosexuality and all specified issues contained in the Social Principles including the prohibition of ceremonies celebrating homosexual unions by our ministers and in our churches. At the same time we also affirm our pastoral responsibility to all peoples including those who feel excluded from the church. We call upon the whole church to deal with these matters with faithfulness rooted in the love of Christ, as revealed in Holy Scripture. We believe with John Wesley, "It is the nature of love to unite us together..." and "To separate ourselves from a body of living Christians with whom we were before united is a grievous breach of the law of love."

Issues currently creating

concern and pain within the church call for renewed commitment to our doctrinal foundations as contained in the Articles of Religion, the Confession of Faith and Wesley's Sermons and Notes. We call all United Methodists to the fulfillment

of the teaching office of the church and to ground the church's actions more deeply in the foundational doctrines and theological task as set forth in The Book of Discipline. Moreover, as an exercise of our teaching office, the Council of Bishops commits itself to engage in further prayerful study and dialogue and to develop a teaching paper as a means of identifying critical doctrinal and ecclesial foundations for addressing current and other issues. We solicit your prayers and support as together we seek to anchor the church more firmly in our biblical and theological foundations.

We acknowledge the desire to resolve current conflicts around issues of homosexuality. We have prayerfully considered the appeal to resolve legislatively the tensions through a called session of the General Conference. In anticipation of deliberations by the Judicial Council and the need for continued discernment and Christian conferencing on these matters, the calling of a special session does not seem wise at this time. Further, as we respond to the crises in the world, especially among children and the impoverished and those who desperately need the gospel, a special called session might further distract us from our central mission.

As a sign and instrument of Christ's coming reign over creation, the church lives with the tension between Christ's final victory and the present reality of sin. We do not, however, live with despair or impatience. With confidence, we as bishops continue our individual and corporate commitment to proclaim, defend, and live the doctrines, order, and mission of the church. The decisive victory has already been won in Jesus Christ. Therefore, we confront tension, conflict, and unresolved issues with patience, hope, and love. We know that in Jesus Christ "all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of the cross" (Colossians 1:20).

"Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 6:23).

- i. "Social Principles," Para. 65G, 1996 Book of Discipline.
- ii. "Social Principles," Para. 65C, 1996 Book of Discipline.
- iii. "The Ministry of the Ordained," Para. 304.3, 1996 Book of Discipline.
- iv. "Service of Consecration of Bishops," The United Methodist Book of Worship.
- v. "On Schism," The Works of John Wesley.
- vi. "Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task," 1996 Book of Discipline.



Dan E. Solomon

## Winns to lead opening memorial service at Annual Conference



Carole Cotton  
Winn



John Winn

Revs. Carole Cotton and John Winn will lead the opening Memorial/Communion Service at 1:30 p.m. Monday, June 8 in the Gold Dome in Shreveport. This service honors deceased pastors and spouses and is the first event in the Gold Dome during Annual Conference 1998.

Carole Cotton Winn, the first woman in the Louisiana Conference to be named a district superintendent, is leaving that appointment in the New Orleans District after eight years. From 1975-78, Carole served as pastor of Asbury UMC in West Monroe. Before going to Monroe, she served as associate pastor of Aurora and Rayne Memorial UMCs in New Orleans. She is a graduate of Centenary College, which also awarded her an honorary doctor of divinity degree in 1992. She completed her seminary work at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas where she received an Outstanding Senior Award.

Since 1990, John Winn has been the designer and director of The Center for Pastoral Effectiveness in New Orleans which provides a mentoring process for ministers in their first appointments as well as ordained ministers with many years experience. He is known as "a pastor to pastors" and his work now includes consultations to other annual conferences throughout the country. Prior to that, John served churches in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Monroe and Shreveport. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from Tulane University in New Orleans and a master of divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology at SMU in Dallas. He also was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Centenary in 1992.

Over a period of ten years, Carole and John co-pastored at First UMC in Houma and at Aldersgate UMC in Slidell. They developed a collegial style of ministry, including dialogue sermons.

The Winns were married in 1974; their daughter, Lane, is president of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries.





# Annual Conference 1998

One generation shall tell another the mighty acts of God. Psalms 145:4

## Pray for Annual Conference!

We are publishing the agenda for Annual Conference so that everyone can be a part of it.  
Please keep the moments of this event in your heart and pray for God's grace to touch it with success.

## Agenda

### MONDAY, June 8

|          |                                        |
|----------|----------------------------------------|
| 8:00 am  | Registration                           |
| 11:30 am | VIM Block Party, <i>Sprague Street</i> |
| 1:30 pm  | Memorial/Communion Service             |
| 3:00 pm  | Clergy Session, <i>Brown Chapel</i>    |
|          | Laity Session, <i>Gold Dome</i>        |
| 5:00 pm  | Break for Dinner                       |
| 7:00 pm  | Pre-Service Music                      |
| 7:30 pm  | A Service of Prophetic Witness         |

### TUESDAY, June 9

|          |                                                                             |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6:15 am  | Sunrise Devotional Service, <i>Hargrove Memorial Amphitheater</i>           |
| 7:00 am  | Laity Breakfast, <i>South Dining Hall</i>                                   |
| 8:00 am  | Campus Communion Services, <i>See map in packet for locations</i>           |
| 8:45 am  | Opening Prayer                                                              |
| 8:47 am  | Bible Study, <i>Gold Dome</i> : "A Sixth Sense: Praise" (Psalm 145:1-3)     |
| 9:30 am  | Constituting the Conference                                                 |
| 9:31 am  | Lay Leader's Address                                                        |
| 9:45 am  | Episcopal Address                                                           |
| 10:30 am | Archives and History                                                        |
| 10:35 am | Witness of the Spirit                                                       |
| 10:42 am | ✚Challenge from Bishops' Initiative: Children & Poverty                     |
| 11:10 am | Witness of the Spirit                                                       |
| 11:17 am | Committee on Rules                                                          |
| 11:45 am | ✚Challenge from District Missioners                                         |
| 12:05 pm | Break for Lunch                                                             |
| 1:00 pm  | Additional Campus Communion Service, <i>See map in packet for locations</i> |
| 2:00 pm  | Opening Prayer                                                              |
| 2:02 pm  | Committee on Rules                                                          |
| 2:27 pm  | The Academy for Spiritual Leadership                                        |
| 2:32 pm  | Quality Discernment Teams                                                   |
| 2:40 pm  | Witness of the Spirit                                                       |
| 2:47 pm  | ✚Challenge from Higher Education Conference Ministry Team                   |
|          | Dillard University                                                          |
|          | Centenary College                                                           |
|          | Africa University Presentation                                              |
|          | Seminaries                                                                  |
| 3:20 pm  | Witness of the Spirit                                                       |
| 3:27 pm  | Religion and Race, <i>Item for Action</i>                                   |
| 3:30 pm  | ✚Challenge from Special Ministries                                          |
| 3:33 pm  | ✚Challenge to be in Mission (Hands-on mission project)                      |
| 4:15 pm  | ✚Challenge from Russia Initiative                                           |
| 4:20 pm  | ✚Challenge from Volunteers in Mission                                       |
| 4:30 pm  | Break for Dinner                                                            |
| 7:00 pm  | Pre-Service Music                                                           |
| 7:30 pm  | Service of Proclamation and Hope                                            |

### WEDNESDAY, June 10

|          |                                                                                 |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6:15 am  | Sunrise Devotional Service, <i>Hargrove Memorial Amphitheater</i>               |
| 8:00 am  | Communion Service, <i>See map in packet for locations</i>                       |
| 8:45 am  | Opening Prayer                                                                  |
| 8:47 am  | Bible Study, <i>Gold Dome</i> : "The Awesome Attributes of God" (Psalm 145:4-7) |
| 9:28 am  | Committee on the Journal                                                        |
| 9:30 am  | United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana                                        |
| 9:45 am  | Witness of the Spirit                                                           |
| 9:52 am  | "To Africa with Love"                                                           |
|          | Bishops' Appeal for the Children of Africa                                      |
|          | Commissioning the Tennis Shoe Delivery Team                                     |
| 10:12 am | Witness of the Spirit                                                           |
| 10:20 am | Board of Pensions                                                               |
| 10:35 am | Worship Service for Retirees                                                    |
|          | Retirees Address the Conference                                                 |
| 12:05 pm | Break for Lunch                                                                 |
| 2:00 pm  | Opening Prayer                                                                  |
| 2:02 pm  | Extension Ministries (ABLC)                                                     |
| 2:10 pm  | Board of Ordained Ministry                                                      |
|          | Commissioning of Probationers and Licensing of Local Pastors                    |
| 3:10 pm  | Witness of the Spirit                                                           |
| 3:20 pm  | Conference Council on Finance & Administration                                  |
| 3:40 pm  | Conference Treasurer and Statistician                                           |
| 3:50 pm  | Commission on Equitable Compensation                                            |
| 3:55 pm  | Witness of the Spirit                                                           |
| 4:05 pm  | Committee on Nominations                                                        |
| 4:20 pm  | ✚Challenge from Mt. Sequoyah                                                    |
| 4:30 pm  | Break for Dinner                                                                |
| 7:00 pm  | Pre-Service Music                                                               |
| 7:30 pm  | A Service of Ordination and Consecration                                        |

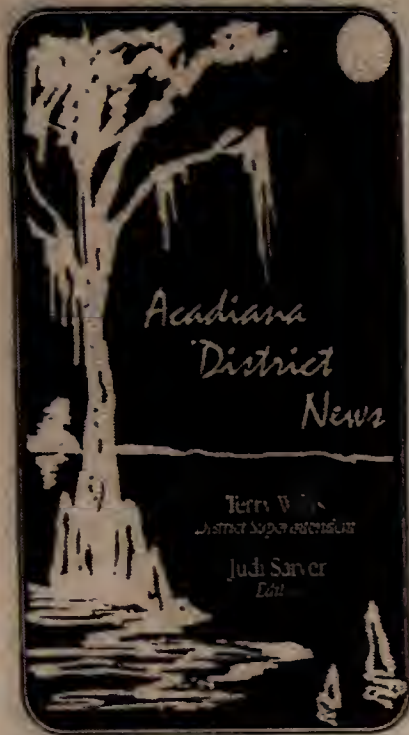
Reception following honoring retirees, ordinands, newly commissioned probationers and newly licensed local pastors, *Haynes Gym*.

### THURSDAY, June 11

|          |                                                                     |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6:45 am  | Sunrise Devotional Service, <i>Hargrove Memorial Amphitheater</i>   |
| 7:00 am  | Ecumenical Breakfast, <i>South Dining Room, Centenary Cafeteria</i> |
| 8:30 am  | Opening Prayer                                                      |
| 8:32 am  | Committee on the Journal                                            |
| 8:34 am  | ✚Challenge from the Board of Laity                                  |
| 9:35 am  | Conference Center Board of Trustees                                 |
| 9:50 am  | ✚Challenge from our Institutions                                    |
| 10:35 am | Word of Witness                                                     |
| 10:45 am | Conference Board of Trustees                                        |
| 10:55 am | Committee on Petitions                                              |
| 11:15 am | Louisiana Moral and Civic Foundation                                |
| 11:17 am | Setting of '99 Conference Session                                   |
| 11:20 am | Closing Communion Service                                           |

If a wooden cross is passed to you, please pray for our Annual Conference for as long as God's Spirit leads you.  
When you have completed your time of prayer, please pass the cross to another person in the Dome.





850 Kaliste Saloom Road  
Suite 217  
Lafayette, LA 70508  
(318) 235-0080

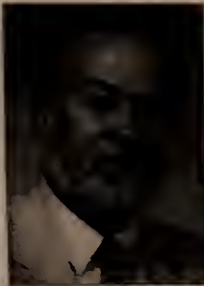
## Boswell named district missionary



Linda Boswell

The work of the Acadiana District Ministry Team is underway with the capable leadership of Linda Boswell. Linda, a native of Troy, Alabama, is a graduate of Troy State University with a bachelor's degree in English Literature and Secondary Education.

Linda has been an active United Methodist in the Louisiana Conference for many years, first at Asbury in Lafayette from 1977-1981, and then at Louisiana Memorial in Opelousas from 1981 to the present. She has held various leadership positions in the local church and at the district and conference level as well as serving as an adult volunteer with Girl Scouts of the USA for 25 years.



Rev.  
Terry Willis

The Acadiana District is changing and changes are never easy. Nine of our pastors are moving. We will miss them and their families, but wish them well in their new journey. They are: Tom and Julia Beeler, Bruce and Jerolyn Brown, Bob and Peggy Burgess, Bob and Evelyn Deich, Alan and Barbara Einsel, Terry and Christine Lindsey, Monica Monk, Bill and Betty Rowell and Idella Stevenson.

On Tuesday, May 19, we formally wished each of them farewell when we gathered at the Church of the Covenant in Lafayette.

On Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Sager-Brown, we will welcome the new additions to our district family: Burton and Ginger Blair, Ed and Rita Boyd, Curtiss Eden, Timothy and Beverly Lawson, T.

## A Closer Look

UM Church of the Covenant reaches out in remote places

The United Methodist Church of the Covenant is located in Lafayette. Originally established as Ivanhoe Methodist Church in 1961, the location and name were changed in 1979.

Currently under the leadership of Rev. Ralph Ford, Covenant has a membership of 430. Two worship services are held each Sunday morning—a contemporary one at 8:15 and a traditional one at 10:30. Recently, Sunday School attendance has tripled.

During the month of June, Covenant will have Camp Meeting '98. It will be a time of old-fashioned worship services with an informal atmosphere. The dress will be casual, singing lively and the preaching fiery. Dr. Terry Teykl will be the guest



UM Church of the Covenant, Lafayette

speaker June 14.

From its earliest years the membership has offered a preschool to the children of

the community. Currently 200 children from infants to kindergarten age attend Covenant daily.

Recently Rev. Ford and six other members extended Covenant's ministry to Rio Bravo, Mexico. They not only worked with hands of labor, but with hearts of love constructing a medical clinic. Since that time they have maintained contact with the Mexican congregation sending clothing and needed items. In September a medical team of doctors and nurses will be sent to the clinic.

Covenant is another good example of how United Methodist churches in the Acadiana District are reaching out not only locally, but in remote places to share God's love for us.

## Happenings:

### Acadiana delegates will attend Annual Conference

Annual Conference will be held June 8-11 on the Centenary College campus. The following persons have agreed to serve as District At-Large Lay Members to Annual Conference for 1998: Bob Sides, Lafayette; Nanci Youngblood, Opelousas; Sarah Schoeffler, Lafayette; Linda Boswell, Opelousas; Michael Cockrell, Lafayette; Charles Granstaff, Lafayette; Emily McCoy, St. Martinville; Judy Willis, Lafayette; Amy Mercer, Lafayette; Kathleen Conrad, Lafayette; Kay Chadick, Lafayette; Donn Chadick, Lafayette; and Ron Sarver, Lafayette (alternate).

The group, along with pastors, lay members and reserve members have attended a pre-conference briefing session which presented information about key items and voting issues.

## New Iberia church celebrates 175 years

by Judi Sarver

### District Communication Advisor

First United Methodist Church of New Iberia is celebrating 175 years of Methodism in Iberia Parish this year. Celebrations so far have included a visit by Bishop and Mrs. Dan Solomon and a prayer and song service held along the banks of the Bayou Teche to commemorate the first Methodist service which was held on a two-masted sailing vessel from Rhode Island. Conveniently, a replica of Christopher Columbus' ship, the Niña (pictured right), was visiting New Iberia at the time and added a note of authenticity to the event.

Also, as a part of its celebration, First UMC is rediscovering its spirit of community involvement. The church began the parish's first lending library in 1918. This became the Iberia Parish Library system. It also is credited with starting what is now the Iberia Parish Community Concert Association, as well as serving as the first

site for the parish mental health offices.

With this spirit in its heritage, the church is now working in concert with several private and government agencies to give start-up space for the following ministries: Iberia Parish Drug Court, which counsels and tests non-violent offenders and has great success in getting users off drugs; the parish's first Sexual Abuse Crisis Center (formerly, victims had to go to Lafayette for counseling); office space for the parish's first Boy Scout executive; the Domestic Abuse Intervention Program, which counsels offenders; Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops; Senior Friends exercise group (in conjunction with a local hospital); senior line dancing groups, art classes, and more.

According to Bud Lee, Administrative Board chairperson, this is an exciting form of ministry, and any church that has a little extra space during the week can find a group that will get some outreach going for you and with you.



A replica of the Niña





## 'Blue Jeans' service at FUMC Natchitoches provides 'relaxed fit'

First United Methodist Church of Natchitoches is gearing its services to successfully reach a segment of the community who prefer church services with a more relaxed fit. Since the inception of a "Blue Jeans" service, attendance in both worship services and Sunday school has ballooned.

"The services are geared to the young-at-heart, no matter what your age," Rev. Doug Cain, pastor, says. "Blue jeans, casual attire or whatever is comfortable is mandatory. The message of the Bible is the same. Our mission is to spread the Gospel through personal relationships with individuals and families."

The services present God's message in a relaxed atmosphere with contemporary music, the use of visual media and fellowship. The church launched the ministry Jan. 25 following a consultation with Ray Branton, who suggested a third Sunday morning service that would reach out to the community.

"We wanted to reach out to both inactive members as well as people who weren't being reached, such as baby boomers and young people who didn't have a church home," Cain says. "Response has been good. We've added about 100 people to the total worship community. We've had new prospects come and people who were inactive become active."

The services are "litany-lite," according to Cain, and although the music is contemporary, the songs are compatible with United Methodist theology.

"We felt it was crucial to use contemporary Christian music," Cain says, "and it needed to be solid, not just a good beat, but the music and content needed to have theological integrity."

The services are held in the church's

Family Life Center, while traditional services are held in the sanctuary. "The nice thing about the gym is the increased fellowship among the group. We have coffee, juice and cookies and a number of people linger and visit. This is new for the church because the sanctuary isn't structured for that," Cain said.



A band performs contemporary music during a "Blue Jeans" service at FUMC.

There were a few issues to be addressed when the Blue Jeans service began, Cain pointed out. "The Sunday school population has grown and it's adding numbers in worship. But coming to grips with overcrowded parking is a growing pain that we are glad to have," he said. "Existing groups — classes that meet at the same time — were afraid of the impact the service might have on their group and we had to work that out. There is a fear of the unknown and what this will mean to us."

Overall, however, response to the Blue Jeans service has been extremely positive. "This church has been very supportive of this outreach ministry with money and resources. We traveled to see other services and we ordered videos to see how it was done. It is surprising how many folks over baby boomer age attend the service."

## Meet your district missionary

Pamela Crews has been selected as the Alexandria District missionary. Crews has been director of Christian Education at First UMC in Winnfield since 1992.

Crews has a bachelor of arts degree from Centenary College School of Church Careers and a master's degree in christian education with emphasis in children and youth ministry from Garrett Evangelical Theological Semi-



Pam Crews

nary. She will be consecrated as a diaconal minister at Annual Conference.

She expects to begin her ministry June 1. She has already been involved with the District Ministry Team and with the Conference Ministry Team.

Crews is married to Joe Crews and they are the parents of four children.

## YOUTH NEWS

### Youth honored by Alexandria District Masonic lodges

Several United Methodist youth have been honored for the honesty and integrity they display among their peers and in their communities. This is due in no small part to the training and nurturing they receive in their church as well as from their families.

Congratulations to Monica Dupreast (Palestine UMC), honored by the Avenue Hinson Masonic Lodge, and to Katie



Dollar and Andy Simpson (Pineville First UMC), honored by the Solomon Masonic Lodge.

This summer, youth will be busy with DCYM training June 5-6 at the Conference Center.

The Louisiana Annual Conference will be June 8-11. JYMO (CCYM) will be July 6-11 at Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville, Ark.

VIM opportunities include Sager-

## Mission in Motion moving this way

Mission in Motion is a conference-wide program to stock the UMCOR depot at Sager-Brown in Baldwin to provide disaster relief. The program is now in its fourth month and Alexandria District Coordinator Elzie Gauntz and District Superintendent Don Avery are making plans for our district drive in August.

Gauntz and Avery are requesting help in locating an 18-wheel tractor to move the trailer and in collecting the names and availability of licensed United Methodist tractor operators to assist in moving the trailer as it itinerates within the district.

"We feel the presence and visibility of the trailer will be an important symbol in as many places as possible," Avery says. "The availability of tractors to move the trailer will assist in this determination greatly. We would really like to have at least five sites within the district, but we may have to limit ourselves to just three. Please help us locate these drivers and tractors."

Anyone who would like to offer assistance should contact Gauntz at (318) 442-8460.

## MISSION IN MOTION

LOUISIANA UNITED METHODIST  
GLOBAL DISASTER RELIEF

## Get your church news on this page!

Like what you read here?

Take advantage of this opportunity to get your church news out to everyone in Louisiana. Send us your news, announcements, or tell us about something your church is doing that really works.

Send information to the Alexandria District Office at 2013 MacArthur Drive, Bldg. 2, Suite 2, Alexandria, LA 71301. Attention: District Communication Advisor.

# Alexandria District News



2013 MacArthur Drive  
Bldg. 2, Suite A-1  
Alexandria, LA 71301  
(318) 443-3213

**District Superintendent**  
Rev. Don Avery  
**Communication Advisor**  
To be named

### Alexandria District DMT

**District Superintendent**  
Rev. Don Avery  
**District Missioner**  
Pam Crews  
**Lay Leader**  
Ned Randolph  
**CFA**  
V. J. French  
**Board of Church**  
**Bldg./Location/Ext.**  
Rev. James Graham  
**Education Ministries Leader**  
Eloise Cox  
**Renewal Ministries Leader**  
Dianne Allen  
**Meditative Ministries Leader**  
Rev. Doug Cain  
**Outreach Ministries Leader**  
Rev. Mark Bray  
**Communication Advisor**  
To Be Named  
**Youth Representative**  
Rebecca Eskew  
**Youth Coordinator**  
Rev. Pam Fitch  
**Values Team Representative**  
Rev. James Ray  
**At Large**  
Joe Page  
Terry Velten





# Baton Rouge District News



5713 Superior Drive, Suite A-1  
Baton Rouge, LA 70816  
(504) 296-0668

**Dr. Leslie P. Norris,**  
District Superintendent

**To be named**  
Communication Advisor

## The 1998 Baton Rouge District Ministry Team

### District Superintendent

Dr. Leslie P. Norris

### District Missioner

LaMarilys Cotten

### District Lay Leader

Joyce Robinson

### Education Ministries Leader

Sue Catchings

### Renewal Ministries Leader

Dale Jones

### Meditative Ministries Leader

Rev. Debbie Drash

### Outreach Ministries Leader

Myrtle Perkins

### Youth Representatives

Kristin Ballard

Katrina Spottsville

Ashley Flynn

### Communication Advisor

To be named

### Committee on Finance and Administration Rep.

Rev. Don Hall

### Board of Church Locations and Church Extension

Gordon Morris

### Conference Values Team Rep.

Anica Doyle

### Youth Coordinator

Faye Ross



## From the desk of the district superintendent ...

*The Earth is the Lord's*

**Dr. Leslie Norris**  
District Superintendent

The earth is not ours. The earth is God's. Everything in the earth is God's. All who dwell on earth belong to God. David makes this crystal clear in Psalm 24:1: "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein."

We claim ownership of this and that, but there is no such thing as human ownership. God is the sole owner of all that is. God has made us stewards, trustees, managers of His great estate and possessions. "All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, Lord, from Thee."

We have received in abundance from the Lord. God desires that we manage and not mismanage, that we use and not misuse what He has entrusted to us. God desires that we manage and use what He has entrusted to us in the fulfillment of His purposes.

## St. Mark celebrates Native American Sunday

by Darlene Sims

### St. Mark UMC, Baton Rouge

Native American Awareness Sunday at St. Mark UMC in Baton Rouge was designed to celebrate the bonds of love and nurturing we share with our Native American brothers and sisters. This was done by special guests who guided the congregation in our efforts toward a better understanding between cultures.

First, we recognized the history and culture of our Native American neighbors. Kenneth Gill, chairman of the Turtle Clan of Pollock, La., shared information about the Native American culture. Secondly, Yolonda Edward, secretary of the Louisiana Band of Choctaw Indians, delivered the message for children by telling a story about the Indian culture, relating scripture to the story and concluding with a song she played with a Native American flute. (See picture below.)

Rev. James Haynes, pastor of St. Mark, led the congregation in song, first in the language of the Indian followed by the English language. His sermon pointed out the significance of the celebration and the need for the two cultures to share with one another.



Yolonda Edward, a Louisiana Choctaw Indian, plays a Native American flute during the Children's Sermon at St. Mark UMC, Baton Rouge.

## How do I get my church news in the paper?

The new format for the *Review*, in which each district will have a page of news at regular intervals, offers a great opportunity for churches wanting news or stories publicized. To submit articles, photos or stories

The earth is the Lord's. All who dwell on earth belong to God. God has a claim on us. God has a right to our time, talents and service. God has a right to all we acquire by labor and skill. God has a right to our praise and adoration.

"This is my Father's world, the birds, their carols raise, the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise." The birds praise the Lord with their songs. God is worthy of our praise. The sun praises the Lord with its light. God delights in our praise. The lily praises the Lord by reaching up to God. God yearns for our praise. "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord."

We belong to God. "Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." The earth, indeed, the whole world belongs to God. God rules; God reigns over all.

If human beings ruled the earth and the world, we would have every reason for sadness and depression. The good news is, God rules; God reigns. "This is my Father's world: why should my heart be sad? The Lord is King: let the heavens ring! God reigns, let the earth be glad!"

Joyce Jones, a member of St. Mark, explained what the money we offer on Native American Awareness Sunday has done and will continue to do in support of Native American ministries. A special time was set aside to give the members of the church the opportunity to make a generous contribution on this special day.

At the conclusion of the program, Eddie Rainwater, chief of the Louisiana Band of the Choctaw Indians and his grandson, Michael Covington, a member of the Clan, shared with the congregation a variety of artifacts displayed in the fellowship hall of the church.

The concluding activity was a fellowship luncheon, sponsored by the Religion and Race Ministry of St. Mark, at Ralph and Kacoo's Restaurant. This time was spent getting closer to one another, sharing concerns, exchanging ideas and making plans to work together in the future. We discovered that we were more alike than different.

Mary Alice Quiett, chairperson of the celebration, was very pleased with the outcome of this event and the positive comments about the new relationships and understandings that developed between our cultures.

## Annual picnic at Camp Istrouma for clergy, spouses, families

We look forward to an enjoyable time as clergy, spouses and families gather at Camp Istrouma on Friday, June 19 from 6-8 p.m. for our Annual Picnic.

We will meet and greet new ministers and their families who are moving into the district and also those moving within the district.

The meal will be prepared by the Camp Istrouma staff.

Come join us for food, fun and fellowship!



## DCYM News

### Don't forget!

DCYM Training

June 5-6

Louisiana Conference Center

.....  
Congratulations to our newly elected officers for 1998 - 99:

President:

**Leon Stewart** — Camphor UMC

Vice-President:

**Aimee Lange** — Jefferson UMC

Recording Secretary:

**Luke Fleming** — Jefferson UMC

Membership Secretary:

**Mary Humphries** — St. John's UMC

Youth Service Fund Chair:

**Robyn Selders** — Camphor UMC

District Camping Committee:

**Woody Jacocks** — Meadows Chapel

**Luke Fleming** — Jefferson UMC

Youth Representatives to the District

Ministry Team:

**Kristin Ballard** — Jefferson UMC

**Ashley Flynn** — Magnolia UMC

**Katrina Spottsville** — Camphor UMC

UMC District Nominating Committee:

**Meghan Beal** — Wesley UMC

**Demetrius Jackson** — Neely UMC

Delegate to Annual Conference:

**Anne Jacocks** — Meadows Chapel

Alternate Delegate:

**Breanna Betts** — St. Francisville

District Representatives to the

Conference on Youth Ministries (CCYM):

**Demetrius Jackson** — Neely UMC

Alternate District Representative to CCYM:

**Kristin Ballard**

Youth Representative to the Laity Board:

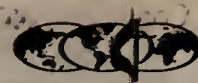
**Leon Stewart**

.....  
Congratulations to **Katrina Spottsville**; she was elected to JYT (Jurisdictional Youth Team) at the last CCYM meeting.

.....  
God Bless each one of you as you serve our Lord, our youth, the church and the community.







# Annual Conference 1998

UPDATE... UPDATE... UPDATE... UPDATE... UPDATE...

## Special Conference Events

### MONDAY, JUNE 8

5:30 p.m. Board of Ordained Ministry Gathering & Sharing Event for all ministerial candidates in seminary and in post-academic programs, members of the Committee on Training and Orders, and all spouses, St. Luke's UMC

### TUESDAY, JUNE 9

7:00 a.m. Board of Laity Breakfast, South Dining Hall, Centenary Cafe  
7:00 a.m. Educational Opportunities Tour Host Breakfast  
Centenary Room, Centenary Cafe  
11:30 a.m. Centenary Alumni Luncheon, South Dining Hall, Centenary Cafe  
12:00 noon Fellowship of United Methodists in Music & Worship Arts, Centenary Cafeteria  
12:30 p.m. Iliff Alumni Luncheon, Ralph & Kacoo's Restaurant, Bossier City  
12:30 p.m. Retired Ministers Luncheon, Noel Memorial UMC  
12:30 p.m. Town & Country Ministries Luncheon, Don's Seafood Restaurant  
5:30 p.m. CEF Banquet, Centenary Room, Centenary Cafe  
5:30 p.m. National Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors Banquet, South Dining Hall, Centenary Cafe  
5:30 p.m. Candler Alumni Banquet, First UMC, Shreveport  
5:30 p.m. Duke Alumni Banquet, First UMC, Shreveport  
5:30 p.m. Gammon Alumni Banquet, Pete Harris Cafe  
5:30 p.m. Perkins Alumni Banquet, First UMC, Shreveport  
5:30 p.m. Saint Paul Alumni Banquet, Steamboat Bill's, Bossier City

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

7:00 a.m. Conference Board of Trustees Breakfast, Chateau Suites Hotel  
7:00 a.m. Cursillo Breakfast, Broadmoor UMC  
12:00 noon The Order of Saint Luke Luncheon, Don's Seafood Restaurant  
12:00 noon Luncheon for Chaplains & Others in Special Appointments Beyond the Local Church, Centenary Room, Centenary Cafe  
12:00 noon United Methodist Men's Annual Meeting, Centenary Cafeteria  
12:00 noon Clergy Spouses Luncheon, Broadmoor UMC  
5:30 p.m. Asbury Alumni Banquet, South Dining Hall Centenary Cafe  
9:00 p.m. Reception for Ordinands and Newly Consecrated Diaconal Ministers, Haynes Gym, Centenary

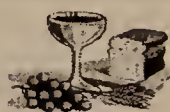
### THURSDAY, JUNE 11

7:00 a.m. Ecumenical Breakfast, South Dining Hall, Centenary Cafe  
7:00 a.m. Missions Breakfast, Centenary Cafeteria

*One generation shall tell another the mighty acts of God. Psalms 145:4*



## Bread of Life Communion Services



### Tuesday, June 9

Everyone is invited to participate in a Service of Communion in Prayer and Praise. Services will be held in six locations around the campus simultaneously at 8 a.m. and one location at 1 p.m.

Morning locations are: James Residence Hall lobby; deck at Sexton Hall; Hargrove Memorial Amphitheatre; Randle T. Moore Student Union; Small Chapel; Smith Building, Rooms 107 and 108. The 1 p.m. service will be in the Smith Building, Room 108.

### Wednesday, June 10

Service of Communion guided by

### Interactive Bible study

8 a.m. James Residence Hall Lobby  
Student Union Building

1 p.m. Smith Building, Room 108

### Service of Communion using Native American Christian imagery

8 a.m. Hargrove Memorial Amphitheater

### Service of Communion by Silence and Meditation

8 a.m. Smith Building, Room 107  
Small Chapel

### Service of Communion in Prayer and Praise

8 a.m. Deck at Sexton Hall

## Round'm up!

## Celebrate Denim Day June 9

What do Denim Day and The Bishops' Initiatives have in common? A lot.

This year, the second year of Louisiana's participation in the Bishops' Initiative on "Children and Poverty," is focused on "youth." Louisiana youth wanted to give youth in need something that was a real part of their own lives. They chose jeans.

Just as last October, United Methodists in Louisiana collected tennis shoes for the children in Africa, this year, everyone is asked to contribute blue jeans.

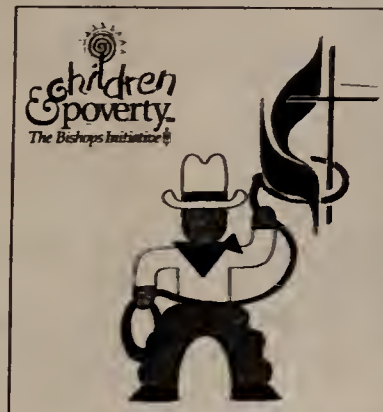
So check out department store sales, garage sales and flea markets for values. Bring the jeans to your local church for delivery to Annual Conference. The jeans will be collected at the Gold Dome and

delivered to the UMCOR Depot at Sager-Brown where they will be packed and shipped to those in need at home and abroad.

During Annual Conference, Tuesday, June 9, will be celebrated as Denim Day. Everyone attending Annual Conference is invited to wear denim that day as a reminder to pray and work for youth, especially for youth who have lives complicated by the cycle of poverty. It is also a reminder to bring jeans as an offering.

The jeans can be either new or if used, clean and in good repair. All sizes for children and youth (which would include adult sizes) will be accepted.

If you have questions, contact Rena Yocom at (888) 239-5286.



## McCord Summer Intern to itinerate here

The Louisiana Conference will be host to a 1998 Lina H. McCord Summer Intern during Annual Conference in conjunction with the Black College Fund Office of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Tarnisha Adams, sophomore at Philander Smith College in Little Rock will itinerate here June 5-11. While in Louisiana, she will attend the DCYM training at the Conference Center June 5-6, speak at the morning worship service at Newman UMC in Alexandria Sunday, June 7 and arrive at Annual Conference Sunday afternoon. There will be a reception in her honor Sunday evening at Faith UMC in Shreveport at 5 p.m. She will speak to the Board of Laity Monday afternoon and will be formally introduced at Annual Conference Tuesday afternoon during



Tarnisha Adams

the "Challenge from Higher Education" session. She will be available for discussions about the BCF at noon on Tuesday and during breakfast Wednesday morning at 7.

Tarnisha is one of 12 students attending black UM-related colleges who will be promoting the Black College Fund at 30 annual conference sessions around the country.

She is the daughter of DeDra Johnson Adams of Houston and is a member of Pleasantville UMC, Houston. Her major at school is secondary English education. She is active in the Student Government Association and Student Christian Association and likes to swim, model, dance and read.

Please welcome her and support her by supporting the Black College Fund.

## VIM: Takin' It To The Streets

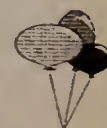
## Block Party will close Shreveport street

If you're not registered for Takin' It To The Streets projects during Annual Conference, it's too late to do so! No registrations will be taken during Annual Conference. This is because of insurance liability for the conference.

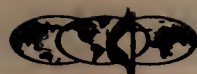
However, you are invited to participate in the VIM Block Party Monday morning at 11:30 on Sprague Street in front of the Hospitality House.

We need everyone's support in this exciting street ministry event, so come out and join us for this first-time VIM endeavor from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Two city blocks will be closed for this time and the Shreveport press will be there. Bishop Dan Solomon will kick off the party with a brief opening address.

Be there or be square!







# AROUND THE CONFERENCE NEWS

## Summer deacons retreat will welcome newly ordained

The Summer Deacons Retreat will be led by Rev. Leslie Akin at the Conference Center July 27-28.

The retreat is sponsored by the Board of Ordained Ministry. Newly ordained deacons will be welcomed at this retreat and it will be a time for community building, guided reflection, worship, spiritual gifts and reaffirming the call to ministry.

Reservations at the Conference Center must be made by June 30. Call Micky Cloud at (318) 255-7911 to register.

## In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to the family of Mrs. Dorothy Barrie, surviving spouse of Rev. Kenneth Carithers (Baton Rouge District), on her death May 18. Her funeral was held May 23 at St. James UMC, Convent.

the family of Rev. Rose Carithers, retired (New Orleans District), on her death May 19. Her funeral was held in Princeton, Ill.

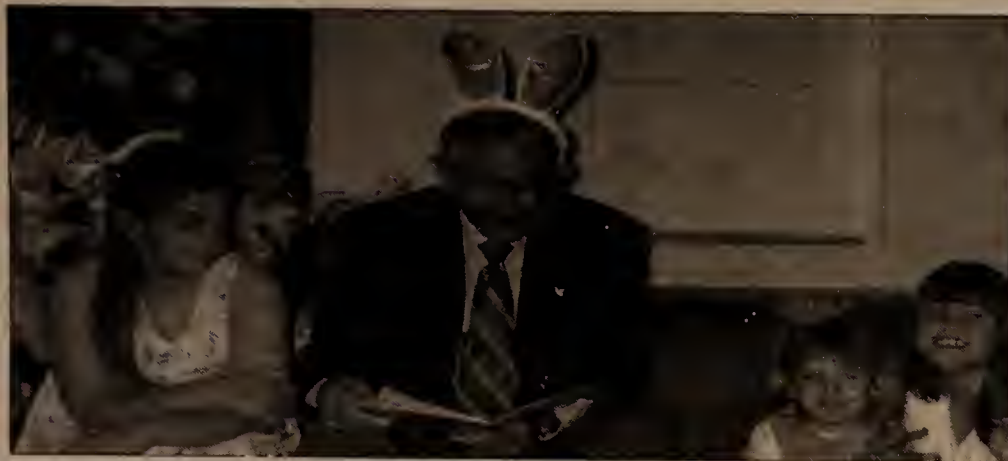
**Louisiana Conference Edition  
of the  
United Methodist Review**  
Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

**EDITORIAL TEAM:**  
Leslie N. Akin, Director,  
Gospel Communications  
Bobbie Armstrong, Editor  
Dr. Alonzo J. Campbell, Liz Lucas

Subscriptions \$12.50 per year  
Send subscriptions, news and  
information to:  
Editor  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
1(888) 239-5286  
(504)346-1646, (504)383-2652 fax  
e-mail: laumc@premier.net

**On the Web**  
The Louisiana Annual Conference has a  
newly revised homepage. You can find us at  
[http://www.gbgn-umc.org/  
louisiana-conference/](http://www.gbgn-umc.org/louisiana-conference/)

**DEADLINE FOR:**  
June 12 Issue — June 1



"Just put on your ears and the door opens to the children's hearts." That was pastor Joe Hunter's experience Easter Sunday at Pleasant Valley UMC in Minden when he donned bunny ears for the benefit of the 16 children listening to his children's sermon that day. As you can see from the smiles on their faces, the kids loved it!

## Louisiana cabin renovations complete

Thanks to the hard work of many people, the Louisiana cabin at Mt. Sequoyah has been completely renovated and redecorated inside and out. Volunteers in Mission teams from Louisiana spent over a month this spring redoing everything, including the grounds around the cabin. Artwork by Louisiana artists now hangs on the walls, complimenting the great new interior decoration.

The pictures below show the changes, but why not head to Mt. Sequoyah this summer and see for yourself?



## Scholarship available for DISCIPLE Bible Study

Scholarships are available for the DISCIPLE Bible Study Training Seminar which will be held in Baton Rouge Aug. 27-29.

The three-day session offers quality training with active participation, valuable hands-on experience with the DISCIPLE resource and special break-away sessions for leaders of Into the Word, Into the World and Remember Who You Are!

The initial training fee is \$650 for an

initial group of 12 (including room, meals, training and materials). Each additional person added to that group is \$250.

# DISCIPLE

For scholarships information, contact Shirlene Spears, conference coordinator, at (888)

329-5286 for details.

You can register or receive additional information on-line by contacting DISCIPLE at their website: [www.cokesbury.org/col/](http://www.cokesbury.org/col/).

## Conference Program Calendar

### June

- 5-6 DCYM Training, Conference Center
- 5-11 Takin' It To The Streets, Annual Conference, Shreveport
- 6-14 VIM, Belize
- 8-11 Annual Conference, Centenary College, Shreveport
- 9 LACEF Banquet at Annual Conference, 5:30 p.m., Centenary College Dining Hall
- 14-20 VIM Oklahoma Indian Missionary

### Conference

- 15-19 Bishop's Week, Mt. Sequoyah, Ark.
- 17-21 Cursillo #65, Louisiana Conference Center
- 19-23 UMW West Gulf Regional School
- 22-26 VIM, Youth Mission Work Trip, Sager-Brown, Baldwin, La.
- 22-28 VIM, Paoli, Oklahoma
- 27 Conference Center Meeting
- July
- 5-14 VIM, Mexico Mission Trip
- 6-10 JYMO, Mt. Sequoyah

## Pastor golf tourney winners named

### The highs and lows of the game

by Rev. Peter Harrington

Pastor, St. Matthew's UMC, Metairie

The 14th Annual Golf Tournament of The Louisiana Pastors and contributing sponsors was completed Monday, May 4. Playing on the Rapides Golf & Country Club in Alexandria for the first time, the tournament enjoyed a strong field of 32 pastors and three sponsors.



A "sponsor" is anyone who wishes to make a \$100 donation to the tournament and automatically plays and enjoys the day with everyone else. Sponsors playing this year were: Randy Schultz, Paul White and Larry Johnson.

After many balls were lost in the bushes, baptized in the water and often left in the sand after numerous tries, the scores broke down as follows:

### In the Retired Flight:

Ben Fant-1st Place, 89  
Clyde Averett-2nd Place, 90

### "The Larger Cabinet Flight:"

Bo Horne-1st Place, 95  
Terry Love-2nd Place, 98

### In The Bishop's Flight:

Ken Reed-1st Place, 82  
Peter Harrington-2nd Place, 91

### In The Championship Flight:

Jack O'Dell-1st Place, 74 (and that includes an 8 on the first hole!)

Charlie Crews-2nd Place, 80

### On The Contest Holes:

#### The Long Drive Contest

Hole #17-Jack O'Dell (300 yds.)

Hole #2-Scott Wright (drive of 290 yds.)

### Closest To-Hole Winners:

#16 Bobby Potter (12 ft.)  
#9 Bob Miller (8 ft. 1/2 in.)

### The Highest Score:

Mark Bray with a 123

Most participants adjourned to the Conference Center in Woodworth for a light buffet meal and the reception of awards and prizes.

The tournament will be held again next year at Rapides, with the general consent of all. It is centrally located, easily reached from all areas of the state, and the Conference Center will enjoy feeding us once more. Over the years, the Tournament has been played at Toro Hills Golf Club near Many, Briarwood Golf Club in Baton Rouge, Alexandria Country Club and Santa Maria Golf Club in Baton Rouge.

**CONFERENCE OFFICE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:  
1.888.239.5286**



Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
504.346.1646  
/504.383.2652 fax

018000

Send PS Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

Vol 15 No 13 June 12, 1998

## Bishop announces conference staff appointments

# Norman, Rhoads, Yocom named to lead conference ministries



**Rev. Carl E. Rhoads, III**  
Director, Administration  
Services/Treasurer/Pen-  
sion and Benefits Officer

Carl Rhoads brings to the position of Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer/Pension

and Benefits Officer a wealth of experience in churches of various sizes, along with distinguished leadership as the District Superintendent of the North Shore District since 1992.

Wearing many different hats, Carl will be fulfilling a significant range of responsibilities as it relates to the stewardship and financial mission of the life of the Louisiana Conference. He will be working to assist us in developing a more faithful response in the stewardship of our financial resources and in an understanding of and interpretation of the missional



**Rev. Larry D. Norman**  
Director, Louisiana  
Volunteers in Mission

outreach opportunities in our connectional life. As secretary and statistician, he is charged with keeping records of our

activities as well.

Carl and his wife Ann have two grown daughters, Amy and Beth. A native of Memphis, Tenn., he attended Methodist-related Lambuth University in Jackson, Tenn. and Vanderbilt Divinity School at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. He was ordained as a deacon in 1966 and an elder in 1968 and came to the Louisiana Conference from the Memphis Conference in 1976.0

**Rev. Larry D. Norman**  
Director, Louisiana Volunteers in Mission



**Dr. Rena Yocom**  
Area Director, Gospel  
Communications

Larry Norman brings to the position of Director of Volunteers In Mission, not only proven capability in VIM leadership, but a deep passion

for the enhancing and enlarging of this mission in the life of the Louisiana Conference. Having served in pastoral settings in various congregations, Larry now will help congregations across Louisiana move out into significant initiatives through Volunteers In Mission.

Volunteers In Mission is vital to creating a mission focus in the life of the Louisiana Conference. Larry will be assisting local congregations, district, and conference teams to undertake VIM experiences around the world.

*Please see Staff, page 8.*

## Bishop announces 1998-99 ministerial appointments

Bishop Dan Solomon announced ministerial appointments Thursday, June 11 at the close of the 28th Louisiana Annual Conference held at Centenary College

### ACADIANA DISTRICT

|                                      |                             |    |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----|
| District Superintendent.....         | Terry C. Willis             | 4  |
| Abbeville-Pecan Island.....          | John L. Vining              | 2  |
| Bayou Blue-Houma Heights.....        | Curtiss D. Eden             | 1  |
| Berwick, First.....                  | (Susan C. Pugh FL)          | 2  |
| Dulac, Clanton Chapel.....           | (Cyril A. Kirby Verret PL)  | 10 |
| Franklin:                            |                             |    |
| Asbury-Trinity-Godman.....           | (James N. Kirk FL)          | 5  |
| First-McGowan.....                   | Burton F. Blair             | 1  |
| Houma:                               |                             |    |
| First.....                           | Timothy E. Lawson           | 1  |
| Wesley-Mt. Vernon.....               | (Madeline M. Mitchell PL)   | 2  |
| Indian Bayou-Rayne, Centenary.....   | (Lloyd E. Scott FL)         | 2  |
| Jeanerette:                          |                             |    |
| St. Paul-Fitzgerald-Mt. Zion.....    | (Fulton Raymond RA)         | 12 |
| St. Peter-Mallalieu.....             | E. Andrew Goff              | 5  |
| Lafayette:                           |                             |    |
| Asbury.....                          | T. Edward Boyd              | 1  |
| Associate.....                       | Scott T. Bullock            | 6  |
| Associate.....                       | Ira M. Robinson RM          | 4  |
| Church of the Covenant.....          | W. Ralph Ford               | 2  |
| First.....                           | M. Jack O'Dell              | 4  |
| Associate.....                       | (C. Ann Sutton PL)          | 4  |
| Northwood.....                       | (Darryl A. Tate)            | 1  |
| Immanuel.....                        | T.B.S.                      |    |
| Lydia.....                           | (Robert W. Cormier PL)      | 8  |
| Mathews, Memorial.....               | Jose' Garcia                | 4  |
| Melville-Palmetto-Krotz Springs..... | (William R. Jacobs, Sr. PL) | 5  |
| Melville, St. James.....             | Daniel Francis, Jr. OF      | 3  |
| Morgan City:                         |                             |    |
| Pharr Chapel.....                    | T. Lynn Malone, Jr. PM      | 1  |

in Shreveport.

The appointments became effective at the close of Annual Conference. Ministers move to their new

|                                         |                             |    |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----|
| Walmsley-Mason.....                     | (Dan Washington, Jr. PL)    | 10 |
| Napoleonville, Wesley-Woodlawn.....     | (Albert Holland FL)         | 20 |
| New Iberia:                             |                             |    |
| First.....                              | Michael D. McLaurin         | 4  |
| St. James-Briggs-Mt. Zion.....          | (Perrell Church, Sr.)       | 4  |
| New Roads, First-Rosedale.....          | (R. Donald Gentry FL)       | 10 |
| Opelousas:                              |                             |    |
| Louisiana Memorial.....                 | William L. Youngblood       | 3  |
| St. Mark.....                           | (Davis W. Clark PE)         | 2  |
| Patterson.....                          | (L. John Locascio FL)       | 2  |
| Port Barre-Lottie, Wilson Memorial..... | (Ross W. Genger PL)         | 3  |
| Scott Chapel-St. Paul.....              | (Barry A. Whittington PL)   | 4  |
| St. Paul-Green-Wiley.....               | (Leroy Brumfield PL)        | 12 |
| Thibodaux:                              |                             |    |
| Calvary.....                            | (Clifton C. Conrad, Sr. PL) | 5  |
| First-Vacherie.....                     | Wybra J. Price II           | 3  |
| Magnolia.....                           | (Joseph Holland PL)         | 7  |

### ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT

|                              |                         |   |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| District Superintendent..... | Donald R. Avery         | 7 |
| Alexandria:                  |                         |   |
| First.....                   | C. Gerald Richardson    | 4 |
| Associate.....               | Lisa E. Lucas PM        | 1 |
| Associate.....               | Henry C. Blount, Jr. RM | 5 |
| Horseshoe Drive.....         | R. Don Ross             | 1 |
| Newman.....                  | (Ernest E. Scott)       | 3 |
| St. Mark's.....              | T.B.S.                  |   |
| Trinity.....                 | Gary Don Willis         | 3 |
| Wilton.....                  | (Dianne Allen PL)       | 1 |
| Atlanta-Couley.....          | T.B.S.                  |   |
| Ball.....                    | T.B.S.                  |   |

appointments June 16.

Appointments are as follows:

|                              |                             |   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Bethel.....                  | (George A. McVay RA)        | 3 |
| Boyce:                       |                             |   |
| Boyce, First.....            | (William K. McDonald PL)    | 1 |
| MacArthur Drive              |                             |   |
| Lahey Chapel-Sieper.....     | (Glinda M. Doucet PL)       | 6 |
| Union-Melder,                |                             |   |
| St. Mark's.....              | T.B.S.                      |   |
| Bunkie:                      |                             |   |
| David Haas Memorial-Trinity- |                             |   |
| White's Chapel.....          | Mark A. Bray                | 3 |
| Booneville,                  |                             |   |
| Wesley.....                  | (Emmett C. Collins, Jr. PL) | 5 |

*Continued on page 2.*

INSIDE

- 2,7 Appointments
- 3 'Changing Life at the Crossroads'
- 4 Lake Charles District News
- 5 Monroe District News
- 6 New Orleans District News
- 8 Born to be wild...!





# Appointments

Continued from page 1.

## ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT (Continued)

|                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Campi:                            |                          |
| First-St. Maurice                 | T.B.S.                   |
| St. Paul-Mt. Zion                 | T.B.S.                   |
| Cheneyville, St. Paul             | (Obie J. Southall RL)    |
| Colfax, First                     | (James Reid FL)          |
| Eden                              | T.B.S.                   |
| Glenmora-Hineston, Fellowship     | (Pamela R. Fitch FL)     |
| Jena, Nolley Memorial-Belah       | John R. Johns            |
| Jonesville-Effie, Oak Grove       | Charles E. Scott FL      |
| Lecompte-Bayou Chicot-Cheneyville | Rhonda E. Feurtado       |
| Marksville-Evergreen-Simmesport   | (Leon L. Zordan, Jr. FL) |
| Marthaville-Beulah                | T.B.S.                   |
| Montgomery-Mt. Zion               | T.B.S.                   |
| Natchitoches:                     |                          |
| Asbury-Emmanuel                   | James A. Graham          |
| College Avenue-Provençal-Weaver   | (Hugh Don Davis FL)      |
| First                             | Douglas L. Cain          |
| Associate                         | James M. Poole RM        |
| Oak Grove                         | Riley W. Sanson, Jr. OF  |
| Olla-Urania                       | (Jennie Lou Walters)     |
| Palestine                         | Donald R. Morgan         |
| Pineville:                        |                          |
| First                             | J. Roddy Taylor          |
| Pleasant Grove                    | T.B.S.                   |
| Wesley                            | (James E. Ray, Sr. PL)   |
| Pollock-Liberty Chapel            | Fred W. Cory OF          |
| Sanders Chapel-Strange            | (Emily R. Winbery PL)    |
| Trout, Justiss Memorial-          | (Lionel J. Marcel RA)    |
| Georgetown, Selma                 |                          |
| Winnfield                         | Barry Hoekstra           |

## BATON ROUGE DISTRICT

|                                       |                          |    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|----|
| District Superintendent               | Leslie P. Norris         | 4  |
| Baker:                                |                          |    |
| Blackwater                            | Douglas B. deGraffenried | 5  |
| Associate                             | Byrl J. Moreland RM      | 4  |
| First                                 | J. Edwin Dilworth        | 6  |
| Baton Rouge:                          |                          |    |
| Broadmoor                             | Robert J. Burgess        | 1  |
| Associate                             | Kenneth M. Carroll       | 8  |
| Associate                             | Karl S. Klaus            | 6  |
| Associate                             | Martin W. Corie          | 4  |
| Associate                             | Donald J. Hall RM        | 6  |
| Camphor Memorial                      | Roger D. Lathan          | 7  |
| Evangeline                            | (Robert L. Ross FL)      | 1  |
| First                                 | Christopher H. Andrews   | 10 |
| Associate                             | Franklin P. Poole        | 16 |
| Associate                             | Flint E. Shea PM         | 3  |
| Francis Asbury                        | Lorris M. Wimberly, Jr.  | 4  |
| Hughes Memorial                       | William J. Miller        | 29 |
| Ingleside                             | Frank B. Akin            | 1  |
| Jefferson                             | Carol S. Winn            | 5  |
| Jordan-Maringouin, St. Peter          | Clarence L. Hillard      | 11 |
| Jubilee Community                     | T.B.S.                   |    |
| Neely                                 | Arnold V. Brown          | 7  |
| St. Andrew's                          | H. Steve Stephens        | 4  |
| Associate                             | Scott L. Edenfield       | 4  |
| St. John's                            | Richard H. Humphries     | 2  |
| Associate                             | (Elizabetha Wyatt PL)    | 3  |
| St. Luke's                            | Stephen C. Fleming       | 2  |
| St. Mark                              | James F. Haynes          | 4  |
| St. Paul-Deerford                     | John C. Coker, Sr.       | 10 |
| University, William B. Reily Memorial | Kenneth W. Irby          | 4  |
| Associate                             | Roger H. Templeton       | 3  |
| Wesley                                | Terry L. Mulkey          | 1  |
| Clinton:                              |                          |    |
| First-Clear Creek                     | J. Thomas Logan          | 6  |
| Mt. Zion-St. Paul                     | (Henry Louis Jones PL)   | 6  |
| St. Peter-Jackson Chapel              | Laurence E. Hall RM      | 8  |
| Convent, St. James                    | (Gaynell Pittman PL)     | 2  |
| Donaldsonville:                       |                          |    |
| First                                 | Randall K. Nichols       | 2  |
| St. Peter-Belle Rose, St. James       | McKinley Franklin RM     | 2  |
| Galvez, Carpenter's Chapel            | Chris A. Blanchard       | 4  |
| Gonzales, First                       | Samuel D. Reeves         | 6  |
| Greenwell Springs, Magnolia           | Ellen B. Montegudo       | 3  |
| Jackson-Ethel                         | James W. Jones           | 4  |
| Lutcher:                              |                          |    |
| First                                 | (Alice W. Story PL)      | 3  |
| Lutcher Chapel-Gonzales, St. Landry   | (Gregory McClay, Sr. PL) | 8  |
| Maringouin, Shiloh-LeJeune            | (Curtis Johnson PL)      | 1  |
| Plaquemine:                           |                          |    |
| First-Grand River                     | Jack D. Phelps           | 2  |
| Hurst-St. Luke                        | (Thomas A. Wesley PL)    | 15 |
| Port Allen, Scott-Rosedale, Hartzell  | (Ulysse Stephens)        | 5  |
| Prairieville, Meadows Chapel          | Angus L. Caruth RM       | 6  |
| Pride, Bethel                         | Brady B. Forman RM       | 2  |
| Watson, Andrew Chapel                 | George W.C. Calvin, Sr.  | 4  |
| St. Amant:                            |                          |    |
| Faithful                              | (Owen H. Peyton, Sr. FL) | 5  |
| New River                             | (Roger Mosher PL)        | 1  |
| St. Francisville                      | (Harold B. Babin FL)     | 27 |
| Slaughter-Bluff Creek                 | (L. Darwin Brecheen PL)  | 10 |
| Spillman, New Hope-Concord            | T.B.S.                   |    |
| Tunica                                | (Michael Miller SP)      | 1  |
| Wilson, Wesley-Asbury-Mt. Carmel      | (Willie Laws PL)         | 5  |
| Zachary:                              |                          |    |
| First                                 | DeWitt M. Ginn           | 4  |
| Moses Chapel-Beech Grove              | (Larry L. Freeman PL)    | 3  |

## LAKE CHARLES DISTRICT

## LAKE CHARLES DISTRICT (Continued)

|                                         |                             |    |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----|
| District Superintendent                 | J. Lawrence Maddin          | 6  |
| Cameron, Wakefield-Grand Chenier        | (Joseph L. Rountree)        | 6  |
| Church Point-Iota-Maxie                 | (Fred M. Fraser)            | 7  |
| Crowley, First                          | Charles L. Floyd, Jr.       | 8  |
| DeQuincy                                | Carolyn B. Volentine        | 1  |
| DeRidder:                               |                             |    |
| First                                   | Jon E. Tellifero            | 2  |
| Wesley-Merryville                       | (Retha V. Corrigan FL)      | 1  |
| Ebenezer-Branch                         | Cage M. McLemore RM         | 3  |
| Eunice, First-Ville Platte-Pine Prairie | Gary L. Van Horn            | 6  |
| Fairview                                | James C. Skinner RM         | 2  |
| Florien, Prospect-Hornbeck              | (William R. Boyd PL)        | 2  |
| Gueydan-Kaplan                          | James R. Schaub             | 7  |
| Hopewell-Pine Grove                     | (Mark S. Theriot PL)        | 3  |
| Iowa                                    | T.B.S.                      |    |
| Jennings                                | J. Richard Scott-Welch      | 1  |
| Kinder-Elizabeth                        | Louis F. Roos OF            | 2  |
| Lake Arthur-Crowley, Wesley             | (Glynn L. Foreman FL)       | 8  |
| Lake Charles:                           |                             |    |
| First                                   | Steven M. Spurlock          | 7  |
| Minister of Visitation                  | Carl F. Lueg RM             | 19 |
| Oak Park                                | Tommy R. Bergeron, Sr.      | 5  |
| St. Luke-Simpson                        | James H. Humphreys          | 6  |
| University                              | Thomas L. Howe, Jr.         | 1  |
| Warren                                  | Kenneth M. Fisher           | 3  |
| Leesville:                              |                             |    |
| First-Holly Grove                       | G. Larry Maxwell, Sr.       | 1  |
| Korean                                  | (Lee Eckerle PL)            | 3  |
| Mt. Zion-Macedonia-Haskin Chapel        | (Robert M. Eckerle, Jr. PL) | 6  |
| Moss Bluff                              | Daniel P. Gleason           | 2  |
| Oakdale                                 | Joseph E. Hamilton PE       | 2  |
| Oberlin-Basile                          | (Jerold R. Hoffpauir PL)    | 6  |
| Raymond-Elton                           | (Thomas C. Beeler FL)       | 1  |
| Roanoke                                 | (Robert L. Emanuel PL)      | 2  |
| Squyres                                 | Charles W. Crews            | 6  |
| Sulphur:                                |                             |    |
| Henning Memorial                        | C. Richard Hoffpauir        | 6  |
| Associate                               | Tracy L. MacKenzie          | 7  |
| Maplewood                               | Karen F. Davis              | 2  |
| Wesley-Hackberry                        | Leon A. Boggs               | 6  |
| Sweetlake                               | Wayne G. Taylor             | 2  |
| Vinton, Welsh Memorial                  | (Jerry L. Johnson SP)       | 1  |
| Welsh:                                  |                             |    |
| First-Hayes                             | Charlotte T. Brent          | 1  |
| Jones-Jennings, Mallalieu               | (Marvette J. Thomas PL)     | 3  |
| Westlake                                | Steven J. Porter            | 5  |

## MONROE DISTRICT

|                              |                            |    |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----|
| District Superintendent      | Marie Palmer Williams      | 2  |
| Baskin                       | (Cecil C. Mims RA)         | 2  |
| Bastrop:                     |                            |    |
| First-Collinston             | Eddie E. Morgan, Jr.       | 4  |
| Memorial-Mer Rouge           | John G. Deschner           | 1  |
| Mt. Olive                    | (Johnny M. Riley, Jr. PL)  | 2  |
| Beekman                      | Isaac A. Patton, Jr. RM    | 16 |
| Boeuf Prairie                | T.B.S.                     |    |
| Columbia-Hebert              | David J. Sheehan           | 3  |
| Crew Lake-Little Creek-Union | (Newton M. Home, Jr. FL)   | 4  |
| Delhi-Crowville              | (Bonita C. Davis FL)       | 3  |
| Epps-Floyd-Pioneer           | (Margaret L. Brown FL)     | 3  |
| Ferriday-Clayton             | Lyndle R. Bullard          | 5  |
| Grayson                      | Charles B. Roper           | 2  |
| Holly Ridge                  | (Marcelle F. Crow PL)      | 1  |
| Kilbourne-Locust Grove       | (Linda K. Shepherd FL)     | 1  |
| Lake Providence              | Walter L. Parker, Jr.      | 2  |
| Monroe:                      |                            |    |
| First                        | Larry R. Stafford          | 4  |
| Associate                    | Terry A. Love              | 4  |
| Hope-St Paul                 | Curtis D. King OF          | 1  |
| Lea Joyner Memorial          | David F. Fortuna           | 7  |
| Memorial                     | Robert E. Hollis           | 4  |
| Reveille                     | (E. Eugene Kimble RA)      | 3  |
| St. James                    | Derrick D. Hills PM        | 2  |
| St. Mark's                   | Juliet A. Deschner         | 1  |
| St. Paul's                   | H. Warren Blakeman         | 7  |
| Associate                    | Norwood N. Hingle III      | 4  |
| Newellton                    | Walter L. Parr, Jr.        | 4  |
| Oak Grove                    | Mark Dowell OF             | 2  |
| Oak Ridge                    | (Louis W. Redden PL)       | 1  |
| Rayville-Mangham             | Frank M. Jones             | 11 |
| St. Andrew's-Bartholomew     | R. Bradley Laycock PM      | 3  |
| St. Joseph-Waterproof        | Kibbie E. Hatfield         | 3  |
| St. Peter                    | (Alvin Eave PL)            | 1  |
| Sicily Island-Harrisonburg   | Cindy M. Graber PM         | 1  |
| Tallulah                     | Lillard R. Bevill          | 5  |
| Vidalia                      | Jonathan W. Beck           | 1  |
| Washington Circuit:          |                            |    |
| Washington Ch.-Mt. Sinai-Mt. | (Anice N. Moses PL)        | 1  |
| Nebo-Lawson Ch               |                            |    |
| West Monroe:                 |                            |    |
| Asbury                       | (John G. Hankins AM)       | 10 |
| Claiborne-WilHITE            | (Richard A. Poss AM)       | 5  |
| Faith                        | Ricky L. Willis            | 6  |
| First                        | Ray R. Spiller             | 7  |
| McGuire                      | Michael T. Head            | 2  |
| Woodlawn                     | (Howard L. Hudson, Jr. RL) | 2  |
| Winnsboro-Gilbert            | Charles R. Langford        | 4  |
| Wisner                       | T.B.S.                     |    |

## NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT

|                              |                      |   |
|------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| District Superintendent      | Freddie C. Henderson | 1 |
| Belle Chasse                 | W. Arnold Roberts    | 3 |
| Buras, Trinity-Hope Chapel   | (Gene M. Faurie FL)  | 3 |
| Chalmette, St. Bernard-Arabi | Richard O. Teeter    | 3 |

## NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT (Continued)

|                             |                            |    |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----|
| Destrehan, St. Charles      | Mark R. Martin             | 9  |
| Associate                   | (Earline T. Guidry PL)     | 4  |
| Golden Meadow-Grand Isle    | (Ray Leidig FL)            | 5  |
| Gretna:                     |                            |    |
| Boynton                     | Isaac H. Bivens OE         | 4  |
| Gretna                      | Lewis L. Olmsted           | 7  |
| Associate                   | (Regina B. Hickman FL)     | 3  |
| Kenner:                     |                            |    |
| First                       | William A. Rowell, Jr.     | 1  |
| Messiah-El Mesias           | Judith A. Shema PM         | 2  |
| Thomas                      | Robert F. Harrington RM    | 1  |
| LaPlace, First              | Kenneth M. Graham, Jr.     | 4  |
| Luling                      | Michael L. Hammett PM      | 3  |
| Metairie:                   |                            |    |
| Metairie                    | Ellen J. Blue              | 4  |
| Munholland                  | T. Nichols Evans, Jr.      | 7  |
| Associate                   | (Ramonalynn Bethley AM)    | 6  |
| St. Matthew's               | H. A. Harrington, Jr.      | 4  |
| New Orleans:                |                            |    |
| Algiers, First              | Frank S. Harris III PM     | 2  |
| Asbury-St. Matthew          | T.B.S.                     |    |
| Aurora                      | W. Odell Simmons           | 7  |
| Bethany                     | Hadley R. Edwards          | 2  |
| Brooks-Shaw Temple          | Dale E. Branch             | 2  |
| Carrollton-Napoleon Avenue  | Jeffery D. Conner          | 8  |
| Cornerstone                 | Joe D. Connelly PM         | 2  |
| Felicity                    | (Marva L. Mitchell FL)     | 10 |
| First                       | W. Dwight Ramsey           | 1  |
| First Street                | Abraham E. Davis           | 25 |
| Grace                       | (Walter B. Pennington PL)  | 1  |
| Hartzell                    | Karl M. Clark              | 4  |
| Haven                       | Russell L. Jones           | 21 |
| Jefferson                   | Rebecca D. Conner PM       | 8  |
| John Wesley                 | (Tommy A. Dorsey PL)       | 3  |
| Korean                      | T.B.S.                     |    |
| LaHarpe-Thompson            | William L. Jones           | 8  |
| Lake Vista                  | Richard T. Stiltner        | 2  |
| Mount Zion                  | Samuel W. Walker RM        | 2  |
| Parker Memorial             | (W. Craig Gilliam AM)      | 6  |
| Peck                        | (James Henry FL)           | 1  |
| Peoples                     | Joseph D. Awotwi PM        | 1  |
| Philips Memorial            | L. Stacy Cowan OF          | 1  |
| Rayne Memorial              | George A. Duerson          | 6  |
| Associate                   | (W. Craig Gilliam AM)      | 5  |
| Ross-Williams               | (Burnell Bell FL)          | 15 |
| St. Luke's                  | Wesley C. Reagan           | 7  |
| St. Mark's                  | Gregor A. Dike             | 4  |
| St. Paul's                  | James E. Wilson            | 2  |
| St. Philip                  | (Leslie M. Taylor, Sr. PL) | 1  |
| Trinity of Gentilly         | James W. Barrett, Jr. PM   | 2  |
| Trinity                     | Patricia Turner-Brown OF   | 2  |
| Wesley-Hahnville, St. James | (Samuel E. Butler, Sr. PL) | 5  |

### NORTH SHORE DISTRICT

|                                          |                             |    |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----|
| District Superintendent                  | Grayson B. Watson           | 1  |
| Amite-Independence                       | Kenneth R. Bowman           | 4  |
| Angie, Wesley Ray-Mary's Chapel-Live Oak | (Bruce L. Brown FL)         | 1  |
| Bogalusa:                                |                             |    |
| Elizabeth Sullivan Memorial              | J. Vernon Fairley           | 8  |
| Thirkield-Harry's Chapel                 | (Louis A. Smith PL)         | 8  |
| Bush                                     | Karl D. Wood RM             | 29 |
| Covington:                               |                             |    |
| First                                    | M. Eugene Finnell           | 6  |
| Fitzgerald-Waldheim                      | (Percy M. Frazier)          | 6  |
| Day's-Center-Darlington                  | Larry D. Robertson RM       | 2  |
| Denham Springs:                          |                             |    |
| First                                    | Leslie N. Akin              | 1  |
| Associate                                | Karen A. Edenfield          | 2  |
| Roberts-St. Luke                         | Alonzo J. Campbell          | 1  |
| Franklinton:                             |                             |    |
| Centenary-Fisher                         | W. Spiller Milton           | 8  |
| Winan-Hayes Chapel                       | Terrence S. August          | 19 |
| Greensburg-Wesley Chapel                 | (Charles R. Cosentino FL)   | 4  |
| Hammond, First                           | William I. Eubanks          | 4  |
| James Chapel-Lee's Landing               | (Carol R. Richardson PL)    | 3  |
| Kentwood-Mt. Hermon                      | (Fred B. Moore, Jr. RA)     | 2  |
| Lacombe                                  | T.B.S.                      |    |
| Livingston                               | (Linda M. Hagan PL)         | 1  |
| Loranger-Cooper's Chapel                 | (Emile E. Tosso FL)         | 2  |
| Mandeville:                              |                             |    |
| Church of the Servant                    | Barry E. Hughes             | 5  |
| Newell                                   | (Nolan M. Robinson PL)      | 8  |
| St. Timothy-On-The-North Shore           | James W. Mitchell           | 4  |
| Associate                                | Frances J. Hooton           | 5  |
| Pearl River                              | Richard C. Hooton           | 3  |
| Pine Grove-Montpelier-Nesom Memorial     | (Wanda S. Cosentino FL)     | 4  |
| Pine Ridge-Tangipahoa                    | Louis M. Coppage, Jr. RM    | 3  |
| Ponchatoula:                             |                             |    |
| First                                    | Robert L. Deich             | 1  |
| Wesley Chapel-Maurepas                   | (Debra M. Peplow SP)        | 2  |
| Slidell:                                 |                             |    |
| Aldersgate                               | Donald C. Cottrill          | 5  |
| Associate                                | Timothy M. Smith            | 2  |
| First                                    | Joe W. McClain              | 8  |
| Associate                                | John M. Lee RM              | 3  |
| Associate                                | (Allan W. Anderson, Jr. PL) | 3  |
| Hartzell Mt. Zion                        | Darlene Moore-James         | 4  |
| Springfield:                             |                             |    |
| First-Huff Chapel                        | T.B.S.                      |    |
| St. James-Ninde Chapel                   | (Malcom D. Moses PL)        | 2  |
| Talisheek-Sun                            | (Robert H. Chance, Jr. PL)  | 2  |
| Varnado                                  | Ester L. Hammond RM         | 5  |

Continued on page 7.



# AROUND THE CONFERENCE NEWS

## Louisiana Conference School of Christian Mission coming to Centenary in July

"God's Word: Changing Life at the Crossroads" is the theme of this year's Louisiana Conference School of Christian Mission to be held at Centenary College in Shreveport July 15-18.

### God's Word: Changing Life at the Crossroads



In the drawing, Christ is depicted as the "Living Word" giving direction at the crossroads of our lives. The scriptures (John 1:1, Jeremiah 6:16 and Hebrews 13:2) from "God's Word" inscribed on the road sign are those chosen for the three studies offered. The school provides an opportunity to learn about the total program of the United Methodist Women.

This year's school will feature a Fun Night, Thursday, July 16, with a Book Parade and Evening Soiree and The Learning Center with displays by each district on designated topics. Louisiana Conference instructors for the school include Dr. Rena Yocom, area director of Gospel Communications; Rev. Arnold V. Brown, pastor, Neely UMC, Baton Rouge; Dr. Donald Cottrill, pastor, Aldersgate UMC, Slidell. Jacqueline Campbell, Roberts UMC, Denham Springs and Cheryl L. Sliwoski, Cornerstone UMC, New Orleans, will teach the Children's School.

To register, contact Evelyn Evans, 100 St. Clair, Natchitoches, LA 71457. The cost is \$95 for adults, \$42 for children or \$11 for commuters. Registration deadline is July 1.

## Louisiana UM secretaries attend PAUMCS Annual Conference

by Sharon Soileau  
Live Oak UMC, Watson

Several Louisiana United Methodist Church secretaries recently attended the 16th Annual Conference of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS) in Cincinnati, Ohio. The theme of this

and Drucilla Foster all secretaries at Noel Memorial UMC in Shreveport, were joined by Glenda Bice from First UMC, Hammond and Sharon Soileau, Live Oak UMC in Watson. Ms. Bice and Ms. Soileau received recognition at the meeting as Certified Professional United Methodist Church Secretaries after



Pictured at the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries Annual Conference are, front row, left to right, Jeannie Middleton, Noel UMC, Shreveport; Glenda Bice, First UMC, Hammond; and Drucilla Foster, Noel UMC; (back row, left to right) Carolyn Billings, Noel UMC and Sharon Soileau, Live Oak UMC, Watson.

year's conference was "With God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26).

The Buckeye State was host to more than 250 United Methodist Church secretaries with the beautiful Omni Netherland Plaza Hotel as the central meeting place. Special guest speakers included: Bishop Judith Craig, resident bishop, Ohio West Episcopal Area; Dr. Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., general secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History and Dr. Leonard I. Sweet, author and vice president of Drew University.

Jeannie Middleton, Carolyn Billings

attending the Institute for Professional Certification at Emory University, Atlanta, Ga, last June.

The PAUMCS Annual Conference provides continuing education and a supportive base for unity and fellowship of its members. The association, established in 1982, enables individual growth, professional development, and spiritual enrichment. The next Annual Conference will be held in Pittsburgh, Penn., April 8-11, 1999 at the DoubleTree Hotel. For more information please write: Sandra L. Hunter, Registrar, P.O. Box 437, Saegertown, PA 16433.



## A One-Day Spiritual Retreat for the Men

of the Baton Rouge District of the  
United Methodist Church

### TORCHBEARERS

**Date:** Saturday, June 20, 1998

**Time:** 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** St. Francisville, LA  
The Historic St. Francisville United  
Methodist Church

**Call or fax reservations to (504) 635-3763**

Featuring Larry Malone,  
National Director of Men's  
Ministry for The United  
Methodist Church. He will  
speak on "Becoming  
Servant Leaders: Friends,  
Followers and Fishermen."

## Nine actions to help your church minister with the poor

As we enter our second year of participation in The Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty, here's some food for thought on reaching the poor:

- 1) Provide transportation;
- 2) help members take in foster children;
- 3) provide mentors or tutors;
- 4) hold personal conversations with persons on welfare;
- 5) hold cross-racial activities;
- 6) provide social services for the homeless;
- 7) establish family-to-family links;
- 8)

establish ties with an inner-city congregation; and 9) place some of your church's investment dollars at the service of the poor.

These suggested actions were offered by a March 24-25 interdenominational gathering, sponsored by the Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Reprinted from *The United Methodist NEWSCOPE*.

## Vivian UMC makes mission a local project

by James C. Martin  
Vivian UMC

In February of this year, our church decided to start a local mission project. We contacted the Reader Chapel CME church on Airport Drive in Vivian, established in 1912 and in need of repair. Their congregation has eighteen members, most of whom are on fixed income and elderly, so the funds and manpower were lacking. But not their prayers; they had been praying for God to help them with the needed repairs.

We began working in March with some church members donating money, others gathering on Saturdays and, when possible, during the week to work at the CME church. We replaced the wheelchair ramp, the side wall on the fellowship hall, and several boards on the sanctuary wall. The windows, which were coated with paint, were all scraped clean. A stone walk was constructed at the front entrance and flower beds were created on either side of the front stairs.



The women of Reader's Chapel CME lend a hand.

Two trees were completely removed and the parking area was covered with old roofing shingles. A 20-foot culvert was obtained and the mayor agreed to have the city put it in, replacing an old broken down culvert. The church received two coats of paint. We plan to get oil-field pipe for one of the CME church members to cut and weld new stands for their air conditioners. Several of our members plan to make a cross to place above the front entrance.

This was not just our church project. We enlisted the help of Hayward McCormick who had the trees removed and obtained the culvert. Jimmy Woods, a local roofer, provided the shingles. Hayward and Jimmy attend First Baptist Church. Several members of the Mt. Nebo and New Hope Baptist churches helped with spreading the shingles. Donations were received from Mark & Susan Ainsworth who attend Good Exchange Baptist Church in McLeod, Texas and from an anonymous donor.

Louisiana Volunteers in Mission, sharing the love of Jesus Christ in ways that make a Christian difference, have made a difference through the power of God's spirit, which has not only affected the members of Reader Chapel CME Church, but also, members of Vivian UMC.



# Lake Charles District News



816 Kirkman Street  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
(318)439-2982

**District Superintendent**  
J. Lawrence Maddin  
**District Communication Advisor**  
Susan Moore

## The 1998 Lake Charles District Ministry Team

**District Superintendent**  
Dr. J. Lawrence Maddin  
**District Missioner**  
Jean Foreman (Jennings First)  
**District Lay Leader**  
David Qualls (Henning)  
**District Church Extension Rep:**  
Rev. Tommy Bergeron (Oak Park)  
**Finance Committee Rep**  
Richard See (Lake Charles First)  
**Education Ministries Leader**  
Sherrie Balthrop (Leesville First)  
**Renewal Ministries Leader**  
Don Smith (Deridder, Wesley)  
**Meditative Ministries Leader**  
Rickey Watson (Vinton)  
**Outreach Ministries Leader**  
Alice & Rock Rothrock (Holly Grove)  
**Communication Advisor**  
Susan Moore (Oakdale)  
**Values Team Rep**  
Betty Carlin (Hornbeck)  
**District Youth Rep**  
Myka Hartwell (Crowley First)  
**District Youth Coordinator**  
Teresa Wright (Crowley First)

## A word from the district missioner The District Mission Team — making the connection

The Lake Charles District Mission Team has begun its first meetings in the churches and we have been well received. We are coming to listen, to share ideas and dreams, to share the love of Christ and finally, to share His call to mission.

As we begin to learn the strengths in areas of ministry within the local churches, our growing database will be shared across the state with other districts. This will enable us to share resources and assist local churches so they can more effectively make disciples for Jesus Christ.



The church decides what they are called to do, the DMT helps them discover how to do it. We are a connectional church. As the District Ministry Team, our job is to help make the connection, linking congregations together for ministry.

In today's world of improved communications, we do not want to limit ourselves only to the ideas in our local congregation; we want ideas on how to be more effective from all the congregations around us. By the same token, we do not want to keep our gifts to ourselves, but freely share with others to build up the body of Christ.

Connectionally yours,  
Jean Foreman  
Lake Charles district missioner

## Laity banquet featured Rasmuses

The Lake Charles District Laity Banquet was held Feb. 15 at Henning UMC in Sulphur. The ecumenical event featured Revs. Juanita and Rudy Rasmus of Houston, Texas.

Five years ago they took charge of a nine-member congregation. Today, St. John's Church has 2,200 members. Thirty percent of those members are homeless; that is, they have no homes or jobs and have not had a church home before or have never before known Christ.

The Rasmuses began their ministry by providing meals to homeless people three days a week. Now they provide more than 2,000 meals a month.

The feeding program is just one part of the "Bread Of Life" homeless project at St. John's. Staffed by 400 volunteers and housed within the Daybreak Community Center, the ministry includes a clothes closet, drug abuse education and literacy center, HIV/aids center, counseling and support centers, showers and laundry facilities.

## FUMC, Lake Charles hold first family retreat



Seventy members of First UMC, Lake Charles (pictured above), recently enjoyed their First Church Family Retreat at the Louisiana Conference Center. The Basics of Life (recorded by 4Him) was the theme for the multigenerational retreat which was held March 13 and 14. Members gathered who worship in two distinctly different worship services on Sunday and do not have frequent opportunities to interact. Many who have been members for 50+ years had an opportunity to meet others who had joined the week before the retreat. The retreat was planned by the church's Family Ministry Council under the leadership of Gloria Youngblood, director of Family Ministries. Rev. Steven M. Spurlock is senior pastor.

Families, couples and individuals arrived at the Conference Center in time for supper on Friday evening. Then they were entertained by "The Bartles and James of the Ministry" (Rev. Bob Peyton and Rev. Doug McGuire). Friday evening's activities included a worship experience that took worshippers on a journey through the Gospel of John using all of

their senses except sight. They heard characters speaking and miracles taking place, smelled Mary's perfume as she poured it over Jesus' feet, and tasted the loaves and fish when he fed the 5,000. Music also was used to convey the message of the Gospel, and nails were placed in worshippers' hands during the crucifixion segment. The service ended with Holy Communion.

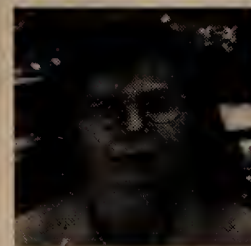
On Saturday children, youth and adults were divided for a time of age-appropriate study focusing on the lyrics of "The Basics for Life" and scriptures that related to them. Adults enjoyed that hour under the leadership of Dr. Henry Blount. Other age groups were led by the church's program staff. Mid-morning found all 70 retreaters outside flying kites in the mild March wind. They also enjoyed watching the video that was made during the retreat on the big screen TV in the parlor before concluding with worship and communion at 1:30 PM.

Church members were delighted to see the generations playing together, getting to know one another and growing in God's grace.

## Get your church news in the paper...

How do you get your church news on the district page?

It's simple. Send your articles and photos to me, Susan Moore. Your church news and events will be published on the Lake Charles page of the Review.



**Susan Moore**  
**District Communication Advisor**

I'm looking for faith stories, testimonies, what's working for your church, current happenings and upcoming dates or anything else you would like to share with the conference.

This is your chance to shine. Please take advantage of it. I want to hear from you!

Send your information to:

Susan Moore, Communication Advisor,  
113 Pine Street, Oakdale, LA 71463-2832.

## News from Uskichitto Retreat Center

from Sammie King  
URC manager



### Mission Accomplished

(pictured above)

Thirteen Nomads, under the leadership of Troy and Sylvia Parsons of Lake Charles, took Uskichitto by storm from Feb. 16-Mar. 5.

Their accomplishments are numerous: the men installed new metal roofs to four cabins and made other needed cabin repairs, while the women scrubbed, painted, and added personal touches to the inside of the cabins.

Thanks to local volunteers, they were treated to a crawfish boil, candlelight fish fry and Mardi Gras party.



### Wood family helps out at URC

Frank, Donna, Avery, Mallory and Nathan Wood (pictured above) of Florida, and formerly of Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky, spent two weeks as volunteers at URC in February.

Our friends from Red Bird did everything from clearing fence lines to working with the computer and feeding the animals so the Kings could take a few days off.





## Making choices

...a testimony of faith (Luke 6:6)

By Mary Minta Moore  
First UMC, Winnsboro

Even though I was in a hurry to get to Lake Charles, I stopped at the Baptist Bookstore in Alexandria because my young friend Fran had told me that she would be teaching about the children of the Bible in Bible school. I thought I would be able to buy some materials which would be helpful to her.

As I stepped out of my car, an unkempt man approached me and asked for money for a sandwich and coffee. Because I felt apprehensive about this man and because I was in a hurry, I shook my head and quickly entered the bookstore.

Although I was pleased with the materials which I found for Fran, I began to feel more and more uncomfortable as I browsed. I kept asking myself whether, in this same situation, Jesus would have chosen to spend His time and money buying Bible school materials or assisting the beggar.

Of course, I knew without a doubt that He would not only have given the man money, but He also would have taken the time to speak some words of encouragement. Jesus might even have joined the man for a sandwich and coffee.

Since that incident, I have tried to remember that the choices we have to make are not always between good and evil, but sometimes between two worthy actions. I know that asking myself, "What would Jesus do?" makes these decisions much easier.

**PRAYER:** Dear Lord, I thank you that you sent your Son to teach me, not only through instruction, but by example, how to make choices which are pleasing to you. AMEN.

## MIM moves through Monroe District

by Betty Martin  
Communication Advisor

Sixteen churches in the Monroe District hosted the Mission in Motion tractor-trailer truck as it weaved its way across the state gathering relief supplies for the UMCOR Depot.

The collection of paper goods and Korean food boxes from this area was transported to the depot at the Sager-Brown facility in Baldwin and unloaded with the help of volunteers before it moved on to the Shreveport District.

Arriving May 1 at First UMC, West Monroe, the 40-foot, 18-wheel vehicle then moved to First UMC, Monroe; Lea Joyner UMC; First UMC, Bastrop and finally Winnsboro UMC.

MIM gives Louisiana United Methodists an excellent opportunity for hands-on experience getting involved in meeting human needs, showing compassion and helping others. Marcelle Crow coordinated the Monroe District's MIM effort.

**MISSION  
IN  
MOTION**  
LOUISIANA UNITED METHODIST  
GLOBAL DISASTER RELIEF

## Meet your district communication advisor

Betty Martin, of First UMC, Winnsboro, is serving as communication advisor for the Monroe District.

Each church in the district is invited to submit articles, photos and stories to her on a regular basis in order to make this



Betty Martin

page a success. Please include a contact person and phone number on all submissions.

Send your news to Betty at 411 Macon Street, Winnsboro, LA 71295. (fax: 318-435-3954 or e-mail: fr\_lib42alpha.nlu.edu.

## Monroe District churches making mark in missions

By Rev. Terry Love  
Associate pastor, First UMC, Monroe

### Operation Hands Together Rio Bravo, Mexico

Members from First UMC, Monroe; Crew Lake; Bartholomew; and First UMC, Mansfield made a week-long mission trip to Rio Bravo, Mexico, in February, to par-



Operation Hands Together

ticipate in Operation Hands Together. The sixteen missionaries assisted with building cinder block homes and a new neighborhood clinic that will serve as a staging site for medical mission teams to minister to the needs of the community. Operation Hands Together is sponsored by the Oklahoma Conference and has been active in the Rio Bravo area for about four years. The experience was most rewarding for everyone who went and provided a "special revelation" for several who were on their first trip. Ministers accompanying the

group were Rev. Bo Home, Rev. Brad Laycock, and Rev. Terry Love.

### Family Mission Day First UMC, Monroe

On Saturday, April 25, First UMC, Monroe held a Family Mission Day at the Outdoor Wilderness Learning Center of the Methodist Children's Home north of Ruston.

Sixteen adults and six children made the short trip on a beautiful Saturday. While the adults moved and leveled platforms that will serve as the foundations for cabins to be built, the children were supervised as they played and explored the outdoor recreation facility.

This "first-of-its-kind" mission activity for the church was orchestrated by Missions Chairperson John Gummere and Associate Pastor Terry Love. Its purpose was to get more adults with small children involved in mission work.



Family Mission Day

## Cosby leads renewal services at FUMC, West Monroe



Dr. J. Stan Cosby

By Virginia Ward

Services of Renewal were held at First UMC, West Monroe, March 29-31. Dr. J. Stan Cosby of Durant, Oklahoma was the evangelist. He brought a series of sermons on "The Old, Old, Ever New Story." Using four of

the most familiar New Testament passages, Dr. Cosby presented Nicodemus, The Prodigal Son, The Woman at the Well, and The Good Samaritan with new insights, leading many to a life changing experience.

Praise and worship was directed by Greg and Kristen Oden, who also presented special selections from Sing

Down the Glory.

Sponsored by The Sunday Evening Prayer Group and co-chaired by Marjorie Caldwell and Sonny McKee, the entire church was involved in this successful event. Children colored bookmarks as prayer reminders, shut-ins participated in the prayer vigil, adult classes hosted evening meals and prayer breakfasts were held with the men of the church and the Fellowship Class.

Brown bag lunches were held on Monday and Tuesday, during which Dr. Cosby challenged the group to be servants, following the example of Jesus.

Rev. Ray R. Spiller, pastor of First UMC, provides the spiritual leadership of Making Disciples for Jesus Christ, the church's motto for the year. All who attended the Services of Renewal agreed they had their hearts "strangely warmed."

## Monroe District News



909 North 18th. Street, Suite 206  
Monroe, LA 71201  
(318) 387-7364

### District Superintendent

Rev. Marie Williams

### Communication Advisor

Betty Martin

### Monroe District Ministry Team

#### District Superintendent

Marie Williams

#### District Missioner

Fred Fulton (Lea Joyner)

#### District Lay Leader

Harold LaGrone (McGuire)

#### Trustees Representatives

Rev. Larry Stafford (FUMC Monroe)

Rev. Mark Strickland (St. Mark's)

#### CFA Representative

Rev. Bill Willis (Northeast Campus Ministries)

#### Education Ministries Leader

Harriette Elrod (Tallulah)

#### Renewal Ministries Leader

Jean Elliott (McGuire)

#### Meditative Ministries Leader

Shirley M. Wall (Rayville)

#### Outreach Ministries Leader

Denny Gamer (McGuire)

#### Communication Advisor

Betty Martin (FUMC Winnsboro)

#### Youth Representative

Ginny Willis (McGuire)

#### Youth Coordinators

Doret Gilbert-Wilson (Hope)

Ellen Bowen (McGuire)

#### Values Team Representative

Jo Traweck (McGuire)

## Coming Events...

### June

- 14 Bastrop FUMC Dedication Service
- 15-17 Bishop's Week, Mt. Sequoyah
- 16 Moving date for pastors
- 22-26 District superintendent out of town
- 30 New Pastors' Welcome Dinner First UMC, Monroe, 6 p.m.

### July

- 6-19 JYMO, Mt. Sequoyah
- 8-11 Minister's School, Conference Center
- 15-18 School of Mission, Centenary College
- 24-26 Happening #12, Conference Center



# New Orleans District News



3401 Canal Sreet  
New Orleans, LA 70119  
(504) 488-5430

## District Superintendent

Rev. Carole Cotton Winn

## District Communication Advisor

Dian Kent

## Murray named New Orleans District missionary



**Barbara Murray**

The New Orleans District has named Barbara Murray as district missionary for the newly formed District Ministry Team.

The daughter of a retired United Methodist minister, Murray brings many years of experience, commitment and training to the team. She received her undergraduate degree in music education from Dillard University in New Orleans and her masters degree in Music Education and Secondary Education from Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe. Diaconal training was completed at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Murray is very active at Bethany UMC where she serves as director of music, is director of the Sanctuary Choir, has served as organist for 27 consecutive years, serves as chairperson of worship work area and assists the pastor with Holy Communion.

Murray says she feels humbled by the opportunity to serve as district missionary. "I feel that God will be with me every step of the way in accomplishing the task before me and I thank God for the opportunity," she says.

As district missionary she will be responsible for identifying individual church needs and facilitating change. This will be accomplished through face-to-face meetings, one church at a time to encourage congregations to celebrate their strengths and be of assistance to other churches in the district. So, United Methodist congregations in the New Orleans District, expect to hear from her soon!

## A Service of Farewell New Orleans District says goodbye to Winns

by Dian Kent

### Communication Advisor

Munholland UMC, Metairie, provided the May 24 setting for a Service of Farewell for Carole, John and Lane Winn. Rev. Carole Cotton Winn leaves the New Orleans District having completed an eight-year tenure as district superintendent. Her ministry has stretched across Orleans, Jefferson, St. Charles, St. Bernard, St. John the Baptist, Lafourche and Plaquemines parishes.

Expressions of thanksgiving and praise were extended for Rev. Winn's support and dedication to New Orleans District churches and for her support to individuals and groups in the district. It was evident by the expressions that Rev. Winn holds a special place in many hearts. She has touched many in a special way.

Carole, John and Lane closed with

words of farewell to the New Orleans District. They plan to relocate to the Slidell area and Carole will join John in working for the Center for Pastoral Effectiveness. Lane will enter American University in Washington, D.C., in the fall to pursue a degree in communications.

The New Orleans district will miss a friend.



Carole and John Winn serve one-loaf, one-cup Communion at Munholland UMC.



John, Lane and Carole Cotton Winn share a few words at the Farewell Service.

## Laity Heritage Festival celebrates fifth year in district



Gretna UMC members proudly display their banner at the Heritage Festival. Pictured left to right are: Wallace Smith, district UMM president; Roger Brunell, lay leader and Chris Chivleatto, youth representative.

The Laity Heritage Festival, developed and presented to the District Laity Board by Dr. Keith Kreutziger, district lay leader, is in its fifth year. This year's Festival was held May 3 at Rayne Memorial UMC, located at 3900 St. Charles Avenue. The theme was "Many Gifts, One Spirit" and featured a panel discussion by Rev. John Winn, director, Center for Pastoral Effectiveness; Dorothy Mae Taylor, Church Council chair of Mount Zion UMC and Jackie Gonzales of El Mesias UMC. Discussion from the panelists centered on their Methodist backgrounds in New Orleans. Musical selections consisted of an instrumental duet of "Ava Maria" by Cathy Anderson on harp and Cecilia Berger on violin --both members of St. Luke's UMC--and two spirit-filled selections by the Mt. Zion UMC choir.

In 1997, the New Orleans District was able to fund two of the eight \$1,000 Daughenbaugh-Matheny scholarships. Also, since 1994, the New Orleans District has contributed the largest dollar amount each year to the fund. This success was made possible by the District Laity Heritage Festival held to raise scholarship dollars for the fund. The Daughenbaugh-Matheny scholarship fund provides schol-

arships for Louisiana high school graduates to Centenary College in Shreveport and Dillard University in New Orleans. Funds from the District Laity Heritage Festival are generated through a \$35 donation from each participating church, donations from organizations within area churches and from a general offering.

The District Laity Heritage Festival, in addition to providing scholarship dollars, provides a coming together of district churches. Excitement filled the air as youth representatives, lay leaders and ministers assembled for the opening procession highlighted by the parade of banners. Each banner represented the individuality of the church and its members. Lay leaders of area churches were called forward in a Ceremony of Dedication conducted by Rev. Carole Cotton Winn, district superintendent. Also, individuals and churches donating \$100 or more to the 1000 Club, which supports development of new churches, were presented certificates of appreciation.

Coordinators for this year's celebration were Babs Mollere, district leader, Daughenbaugh-Matheny Scholarship Fund and Dr. Keith Kreutziger, district lay leader.

## Tell us your story...

Let us tell your story.

If you have a story to tell about your church or your members, please contact the New Orleans District communication advisor, Dian Kent, at 368-2567. You may also contact the New Orleans District office at 488-5430.

Let's get the word out!

## Mission put in Motion in district

"Mission in Motion" is still on the move, but the New Orleans District collected 2-1/2 tons of relief supplies during the month of April. This effort was a part of the "Mission in Motion" project that will sweep Louisiana during a nine-month period. The trailer's first stop was in the Baton Rouge District during the month of February. It then went to the North Shore District for the month of March and New Orleans for April.

The first two weeks of April, the trailer was housed at Cornerstone UMC in New Orleans East; the remainder of the month it rested at a WalMart store on the West Bank in Harvey.

Joe Burke of Asbury UMC and Don Schaneville of Gretna UMC served as co-coordinators for the New Orleans District and did a wonderful job in getting the word out to district churches. They were available every step of the way. The New Orleans District was asked to supply baby goods consisting of disposable diapers, wipes, pacifiers, powders, lotions, nonperishable foods, new clothes and soft toys.

Local churches assisted with donation of items, packing and transporting supplies from local churches, staffing the trailer and packing the trailer for shipment. Thanks and appreciation were extended to a local Ryder Truck Rental company for transporting the trailer from Cornerstone UMC to WalMart and to Western American Transport for delivering the trailer to the UMCOR depot at the Sager-Brown facility in Baldwin.

"Mission in Motion provided New Orleans District churches an opportunity to become personally involved in a hands-on mission project," said Schaneville. He and Burke are already looking ahead to 1999. "We know what we must do to improve next year," said Burke.



Joe Burke (left) and Don Schaneville pack donations from the MIM trailer.





Appointments

Continued from page 2.

NORTH SHORE DISTRICT (Continued)

|                     |                           |   |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Walker:             |                           |   |
| First-Mangum Chapel | Thomas E. Dolph           | 4 |
| Friendship-Corbin   | (Lewis M. Morris, Jr. PL) | 9 |
| Watson, Live Oak    | (Mark E. Crosby)          | 3 |

RUSTON DISTRICT

|                                 |                           |    |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----|
| District Superintendent         | Jimmie D. Pyles           | 4  |
| Ansley                          | Merlin W. Merrill RM      | 5  |
| Arcadia-Mt. Mariah              | A. Wayne Evans            | 1  |
| Arizona                         | (William J. Maxey PL)     | 7  |
| Athens                          | (Charles Penuell PL)      | 4  |
| Bernice-Beech Grove-Summerfield | William Paul Minyard OE   | 2  |
| Beulah                          | Troy Garrett RM           | 4  |
| Bienville                       | William R. Higgs PL       | 6  |
| Brushwood                       | (Leo L. Beck RL)          | 1  |
| Centerpoint                     | T.B.S.                    |    |
| Chatham-Concord                 | Sam Emanuel OE            | 1  |
| Choudrant-Douglas               | Raymond M. Crofoot RM     | 9  |
| Cotton Valley-Sarepta           | T.B.S.                    |    |
| Downsville-Bethel-Mt. Nebo      | Douglas E. Milliron       | 3  |
| Doyline                         | T.B.S.                    |    |
| Dubach-Harmony Chapel           | Jon Lord PM               | 1  |
| Eros-Antioch, Eros              | (David Carlton FL)        | 1  |
| Farmerville                     | Robert G. Rowland         | 3  |
| Gibbsland-Oak Grove             | Johnnie W. Adkins, Jr. OE | 2  |
| Haynesville-Shongaloo           | J. Penn Morgan            | 1  |
| Hellin                          | (Carol Heard PL)          | 1  |
| Hodge-Dodson-New Hope           | S. Brian Yeich PE         | 3  |
| Homer-Wesley Chapel             | David B. Dietzel          | 2  |
| Indian Village                  | T.B.S.                    |    |
| Lisbon                          | (Homer V. Bailes RA)      | 8  |
| Jonesboro                       | Roy Bryan Moore PE        | 2  |
| Marion-Bird's Chapel            | W. Ed Parks, Sr. RM       | 2  |
| Memorial-Salem                  | (James B. Moore SP)       | 5  |
| Minden:                         |                           |    |
| First                           | J. Ryan Horton, Jr.       | 1  |
| Lakeview                        | Wayne Howington AM        | 3  |
| Mount Zion                      | John N. Williams          | 2  |
| Pilgrim Rest                    | (Samuel L. Bradley PL)    | 6  |
| Pine Grove-Bethlehem            | T.B.S.                    |    |
| Pleasant Valley                 | (Joë E. Hunter RL)        | 2  |
| Quitman-Clay                    | (Kenneth A. Klemme SP)    | 1  |
| Ringgold-Castor                 | Joe A. Hoover             | 2  |
| Ruston:                         |                           |    |
| Faith, Antioch, Simsboro        | T.B.S.                    |    |
| Grace                           | Alan Einsel               | 1  |
| Trinity                         | Fred B. Wideman           | 4  |
| Associate                       | M. Rolly Walker           | 20 |
| Wesley Chapel                   | Byrd L. Terry RM          | 1  |
| Sibley                          | T.B.S.                    |    |
| Springhill                      | Weldon C. Bares           | 3  |
| Whitehall-Colquitt-Evergreen    | (David G. Bazer PL)       | 6  |

SHREVEPORT DISTRICT

|                                             |                           |    |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----|
| District Superintendent                     | Robert L. Potter          | 7  |
| Benton                                      | William A. Moon III       | 7  |
| Coushatta-Wesley Chapel                     | Richard Michael Boyett PM | 2  |
| Cross Roads-Hall Summit                     | (Loretta Lampkin PL)      | 4  |
| Greenwood-Bethany                           | Steven R. Kelly           | 7  |
| Hosston-Gilliam                             | Byron W. Putnam           | 3  |
| Ida                                         | Robert E. Carter RM       | 7  |
| Logansport-Bethel                           | W. Mark Strickland        | 1  |
| Longstreet-Shiloh-Keatchie                  | (Thomas A. Wilson RA)     | 2  |
| Mansfield: First-Grand Cane                 | Leland D. Wade            | 2  |
| Wesley-Rosa-St. Matthew                     | S. Charles Byrd EP        | 2  |
| Many-Bayou Scie                             | Hulen C. Warren, Jr.      | 7  |
| Mooringsport-Oil City-Belcher               | Richard L. Cockburn PE    | 1  |
| Plain Dealing-Walker's Chapel               | Henry M. Hamilton PM      | 1  |
| Pleasant Hill-Pelican                       | (Carl D. Munyon PL)       | 4  |
| Pleasant Valley-Mt. Zion-Fairview-New Light | (Oscar E. Player AM)      | 9  |
| Shady Grove-Jewella-Bonchest                | Willie L. Henry           | 6  |
| Vivian                                      | Robert E. Townsend        | 7  |
| Zwolle-Noble                                | Ted D. Freeland           | 4  |
| Shreveport-Bossier City:                    |                           |    |
| Asbury                                      | Jerry G. Hilbun           | 10 |
| Barksdale                                   | Paul C. Carroll, Sr. RM   | 3  |
| Blanchard                                   | M. Stuart Sherman         | 3  |
| Bossier City, First                         | Larry G. Miller           | 1  |
| Associate                                   | Mark J. Goins PE          | 2  |
| Associate                                   | (H. Austin Smith RA)      | 11 |
| Broadmoor                                   | William D. Peebles        | 7  |

SHREVEPORT DISTRICT (Continued)

|                                |                             |    |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----|
| Associate                      | Ellen Alston                | 7  |
| Associate                      | George F. Pearce, Jr. RM    | 17 |
| Caddo Heights                  | T.B.S.                      |    |
| Christ                         | Larry D. O'Dell             | 1  |
| Ellerbe Road-Keithville        | Brian R. Barron             | 1  |
| Fairfield-Faith                | (Willie E. Jackson, Jr. FL) | 10 |
| Fellowship                     | Gregory R. Davis            | 9  |
| Grace Community                | Robert A. Weber             | 7  |
| Johnson Chapel-Bradford Chapel | T.B.S.                      |    |
| Lakeview                       | Charles B. Humphreys        | 1  |
| Love Chapel                    | K. Dale Hensarling          | 3  |
| Mangum                         | William C. Blakely          | 3  |
| McDonald                       | (Donny R. Nedd PL)          | 2  |
| Morningside                    | James R. Huber              | 1  |
| Mt. Zion                       | (Clyde T. Smith PL)         | 2  |
| Noel                           | Steven W. Caraway           | 1  |
| Associate                      | Conrad P. Edwards RM        | 2  |
| North Highlands                | Mark B. Benge, Sr.          | 3  |
| St. James-Round Grove          | Nathan Daniels, Jr.         | 2  |
| St. Luke's                     | Sandra B. Huber             | 5  |
| St. Paul                       | George L. Thomas            | 9  |
| Shreveport, First              | R. Pat Day                  | 5  |
| Associate                      | Willis W. Dear              | 2  |
| Associate                      | William R. Mayo RM          | 13 |
| Minister of Music              | (Will Andress FL)           | 27 |
| Scholar in Residence           | Donald A. Webb RM           | 6  |
| Summer Grove                   | Bryan S. Dauphin            | 2  |
| Trinity-Haughton               | Judith D. Bazer FL)         | 3  |

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS WITHIN CONNECTIONAL STRUCTURE

|                                                                                                       |                              |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----|
| Conference Staff                                                                                      |                              |    |
| Senior Advisor/Consultant of La United Methodist Foundation                                           | Kenneth R. Reed RM BR        | 1  |
| Executive Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer/Secretary/Statistician                        | Carl E. Rhoads, III BR       | 1  |
| Director of Volunteers in Mission                                                                     | Larry D. Norman BR           | 1  |
| Director of Special Ministries                                                                        | Alonzo J. Campbell NS        | 4  |
| Center for Pastoral Effectiveness                                                                     |                              |    |
| Director of Parish Development                                                                        | John M. Winn, Jr. RM NS      | 9  |
| Director of Spiritual Formation                                                                       | Carole Cotton Winn NS        | 1  |
| Staff of General Agencies                                                                             |                              |    |
| Editor, Spanish Publications,                                                                         | Marta L. Sanfiel NO          | 6  |
| Board of Discipleship, Nashville                                                                      |                              |    |
| Faculty and Administrators of United Methodist Theological Schools and Other Educational Institutions |                              |    |
| Asst. Professor of Religious Education,                                                               | Robert K. Martin AL          | 3  |
| Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT.                                                                  |                              |    |
| Minister-In-Residence, Huntingdon College,                                                            |                              |    |
| Montgomery, AL.                                                                                       | John G. Whitley BR           | 3  |
| Asst. Professor of Theo., St. Joseph's University,                                                    |                              |    |
| Philadelphia, PA.                                                                                     | Millicent C. Feske NO        | 6  |
| President, The Jefferson Circle                                                                       | David G. Trickett NO         | 11 |
| Assoc. Dean/Community Life                                                                            | Linn Miller Caraway SH       | 17 |
| Perkins School of Theology                                                                            |                              |    |
| Director, Centenary School of Church Careers,                                                         |                              |    |
| Centenary College                                                                                     | Jayne Trammell-Kelly SH      | 7  |
| Campus Ministers                                                                                      |                              |    |
| University of Southwestern Louisiana                                                                  | Alfred C. Bakewell, III AC   | 4  |
| Southern University                                                                                   | George W.C. Calvin, Sr. BR   | 4  |
| TUCM-LSU                                                                                              | Randall K. Nichols BR        | 16 |
| Northeast Campus Ministries, NLU                                                                      | William H. Willis MN         | 2  |
| Tulane University                                                                                     | Judith A. Shema PM NO        | 2  |
| UNO                                                                                                   | Rebecca D. Conner PM NO      | 2  |
| SUNO                                                                                                  | Connie Breaux-Dillo DM NO    | 2  |
| Delgado                                                                                               | (James Henry FL) NO          | 1  |
| Wesley Foundation,                                                                                    | Derrick D. Hills PM RS       | 4  |
| Grambling State University                                                                            |                              |    |
| Wesley Foundation, LA Tech University                                                                 | Scott Wright PE RS           | 1  |
| Wesley Foundation, McNeese State University                                                           | Tracy L. MacKenzie LC        | 1  |
| APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES                                                                 |                              |    |
| Oklahoma (Less Than Full Time)                                                                        | C. Jeffrey Duke AC           | 2  |
| Kentucky                                                                                              | John M. Higginbotham, Jr. NO | 2  |
| North Alabama                                                                                         | Marcell A. Johnson I SH      | 5  |
| SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS TO EXTENSION MINISTRIES                                                          |                              |    |
| Armed Forces and Veterans Administration Chaplaincy                                                   |                              |    |
| US Air Force                                                                                          | W. Scott Adams AL            | 5  |
| US Army                                                                                               | Macky R. Giles SH            | 2  |
| Correctional Institutions Chaplaincy                                                                  |                              |    |
| Dixon Correctional Institute, Jackson                                                                 | Bertrand Griffin BR          | 22 |
| Health Care Fields, Community Service Organizations and Other Related Ministries                      |                              |    |

|                                                                                              |                            |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----|
| Health Care Fields, Community Service Organizations and Other Related Ministries (Continued) |                            |    |
| Supervisor, Jefferson Regional Medical Center, Pine Bluff, AR                                | Thomas M. Babington RS     | 3  |
| Chaplain, Lafayette General Hospital                                                         | Theo S. Standley AC        | 2  |
| Pastoral Psychotherapy and Growth Services, Dallas, TX.                                      | M. Theresa McConnell AL    | 3  |
| Dir. of Development, Elyria U. M. Village, Elyria Ohio                                       | Ronald D. Dauphin BR       | 3  |
| Staff Chaplain, University of Alabama Hospital, Birmingham, AL.                              | Virginia D. Millet BR      | 4  |
| Executive Vice President, Victorious Christian Living                                        | John Howard Sewell BR      | 6  |
| Chaplain, Memorial Hospital, Lake Charles                                                    | David R. DeWitt LC         | 6  |
| Director of Development, Methodist Children's Home                                           | Paul E. Sabin MN           | 5  |
| St. Thomas/Irish Channel Consortium                                                          | C. David Billings, Jr. NO  | 5  |
| Chaplain/Dir. Pastoral Care                                                                  |                            |    |
| Pendleton Mem. Meth. Hosp.                                                                   | Paul G. Durbin NO          | 23 |
| Executive Director, The Methodist Home for Children                                          | M. Douglas Ezell NO        | 4  |
| Part-time Chaplain, The Methodist Home for Children                                          | Karl M. Clark NO           | 2  |
| Chaplain/Pastoral Counselor, Ec. Center for Rel. & Health, San Antonio, TX.                  | Maria J. Kennedy NO        | 12 |
| Pastoral Counselor, Bohlen & Assoc., Springfield, IL.                                        | Roy B. Nash NO             | 9  |
| Chaplain, Pendleton Mem. Meth. Hospital                                                      | Judy E. Nelson NO          | 17 |
| Wesley Community Center, Atlanta, General Board of Global Ministries                         | William C. Taylor NO       | 16 |
| Chaplain/Director of Christian Education, Methodist Children's Home                          | Mickey D. Stringfield RS   | 5  |
| Evergreen Ministries                                                                         | R. Stephen Casey SH        | 9  |
| Chaplain/Volunteer Coor., Hospice Managed Care                                               | S. Kemper Smith SH         | 3  |
| Chaplain, Northeast Hospice Services                                                         | Daniel H. Miller LC        | 5  |
| SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS BEYOND THE MINISTRY USUALLY THROUGH THE LOCAL CHURCH                    |                            |    |
| Exec. Dir., Creative Ministry Associate, Durham, N.C.                                        | Cathy S. Carlson MN        | 23 |
| SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER VALID MINISTRIES                                               |                            |    |
| Appointed to Attend School                                                                   |                            |    |
| Presbyterian Hospital, Oklahoma City,                                                        |                            |    |
| Advanced CPE                                                                                 | Barbara S. Duke AC         | 2  |
| Perkins School of Theology                                                                   | Deborah Drash BR           | 2  |
| U.T. Medical Center, Knoxville, TN                                                           | Advanced CPE               |    |
| Perkins School of Theology                                                                   | Randall B. Scrivener BR    | 3  |
| Southwestern College, Santa Fe, NM                                                           | Elizabeth M. Northen PE LC | 2  |
| Atlanta Theological Assoc., Columbia Theo. Sem.                                              | JoBeth Kee-Rees NO         | 1  |
| St. Paul School of Theology                                                                  | Monica G. Monk PE AC       | 1  |
| Disability Leave                                                                             |                            |    |
| Disability Leave                                                                             | Michael Corrigan LC        | 1  |
| Disability Leave                                                                             | Sidney Earl Irving AL      | 18 |
| Disability Leave                                                                             | D. Dale Lyons BR           | 16 |
| Disability Leave                                                                             | Carolyn Stokes Lambert BR  | 4  |
| Disability Leave                                                                             | Gary Lee Elliott MN        | 7  |
| Disability Leave                                                                             | John E. Scarf MN           | 5  |
| Disability Leave                                                                             | Lance E. Brown NO          | 2  |
| Leave of Absence                                                                             |                            |    |
| Leave of Absence                                                                             | (Guy W. West, Jr.) AC      | 2  |
| Leave of Absence                                                                             | Gregory G. Mann PM AC      | 1  |
| Leave of Absence                                                                             | L. Chris Curry BR          | 8  |
| Leave of Absence                                                                             | Joseph M. Donakey PM BR    | 6  |
| Leave of Absence                                                                             | Enika S. Jefferson NO      | 4  |
| Leave of Absence                                                                             | Kathryn Dauphin RS         | 4  |
| Leave of Absence                                                                             | A. Swindell Hodges, Jr. SH | 2  |
| Leave of Absence                                                                             | Erica R. Jenkins LC        | 1  |
| Leave of Absence                                                                             | Debra Brazzel AC           | 1  |
| Family Leave                                                                                 |                            |    |
| Family Leave                                                                                 | Benjamin Santana PM NO     | 3  |
| Deacons In Full Connection                                                                   |                            |    |
| Director of Gospel Communications                                                            | Rena M. Yocom BR           |    |
| Director of Christian Education, Neely                                                       | Brunetta A. Shamblin BR    |    |
| Director of Christian Education, Slidell                                                     | Carolyn B. Foster NS       |    |
| Director of Christian Education, Philips Memorial                                            | Barbara M. Hamilton NO     |    |
| Director of Christian Education, Rayne Memorial                                              | Carol L. Sherer NO         |    |
| Nurse Practitioner/Inst. Dept. Ped., LSU Med.                                                | Hu Debo SH                 |    |
| Director, Youth Ministries, Broadmoor, Baton Rouge                                           | John Edd Harper BR         |    |

Continued on page 8





## Appointments

Continued from page 7.

### Deacons In Full Connection (Continued)

Director, Christian Education, Broadmoor,  
Baton Rouge ..... M. Sue Kelly BR  
Director of Music, Broadmoor, Baton Rouge . J. Sidney Montegudo BR  
Director, Older Adult and Visitation  
Ministries, Wesley, Baton Rouge ..... Lusinda M. Warren BR  
Section of Deacons and Diaconal Ministers  
at GBHEM, Nashville ..... Joaquin Garcia MN  
Director of Music, Trinity ..... Roger Michael Cloud RS  
Director of Lay Ministries, Asbury ..... Regina Wren SH  
**Diaconal Ministers**

Director of Christian Education,  
First, Alexandria ..... Nancy E. Wofford AL  
Director of Christian Education,  
First, Winnfield ..... Pam Crews AL  
Director of Music, First, Monroe ..... Kem F. Alexander MN  
Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation SUNO. . Connie Breaux-Diallo NO  
District Missioner ..... Barbara Murray NO  
Bethany ..... Inez Williams NO  
Camphor ..... Gloria Chapman BR  
Jubilee Community ..... Bernadine Johnson BR  
District Missioner ..... Sharon D. Zehner NS  
First, Mansfield ..... Mary Jo Babcock SH  
Director, YWCA Women's Crisis Services,  
Noel ..... Rachel Scott SH

### Deaconess

Deaconess ..... Evelyn Murphree R NO  
Deaconess ..... Juanita L. Ivie R NO

### Transferred In

Jonathan W. Beck FE . . . Virginia . . . June 16, 1998  
Terry L. Mulkey FE . . . California/Pacific . . . June 16, 1998  
Rena Yocom FD . . . Kansas East . . . June 16, 1998

### Transferred Out

Larry Martin . . . South Indiana . . . October 15, 1997  
John Durham . . . Kansas East . . . June 15, 1998  
Melissa Draper Finlaw . . . Nebraska . . . June 15, 1998  
Linda Fox . . . Little Rock, AR . . . June 15, 1998  
Charles B. Simmons . . . Texas . . . June 15, 1998

## KEY FOR CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

FE is Name Only ..... Elder in Full Connection  
PM ..... Probationary Member  
Name in Parentheses ..... For Associate Member  
Name in Parentheses with FL ..... Full Time Local Pastor  
Name in Parentheses with PL ..... Part Time Local Pastor  
SP in Parentheses ..... Student Local Pastor  
PD ..... Probationary Deacon  
FD ..... Deacon in Full Connection  
DP ..... Deacon Recognized from Other Denomination  
Serving United Methodist Probation  
OD ..... Deacon Member of Other Annual Conference  
PE ..... Probationary Elder  
EP ..... Elder/Full Minister Recognized from Other  
Denomination Serving UMC Probation  
OE ..... Elder Member of Other Annual Conference  
OF ..... Full Member of Other Denomination  
RM ..... Retired Full Member  
RA ..... Retired Associate Member  
RL ..... Retired Local Pastor  
T:B.S. .... To Be Supplied

## DISCIPLE Bible Study Correction

We erroneously reported in the May 29 issue of the *LUM Review* that the training fee for DISCIPLE Bible Study Training Aug. 27-29 in Baton Rouge was \$650 for an initial group of 12 people. The initial training fee is \$650 for the first person to be trained, which includes room, meals, training, leader's materials and all materials needed to teach a group of 12 people. Each additional person to be trained is \$250.

Sorry if we inconvenienced anyone.

### Louisiana Conference Edition of the United Methodist Review

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

#### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Leslie N. Akin, Director,  
Gospel Communications  
Bobbie Armstrong, Editor  
Dr. Alonzo J. Campbell, Liz Lucas

Subscriptions \$12.50 per year  
Send subscriptions, news and  
information to:

Editor

527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
1(888) 239-5286  
(504)346-1646, (504) 383-2652 fax  
e-mail: laumc@premier.net

#### On the Web

You can find the Louisiana Annual  
Conference on the Internet at

[http://www.gbgm-umc.org/  
louisiana-conference/](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/louisiana-conference/)

#### DEADLINE FOR:

June 26 Issue-June 15

### Staff, continued from page 1.

Larry will also provide leadership in our missional and connectional life as is appropriate to our work together.

Larry comes to the VIM position from Evangeline UMC in Baton Rouge where, as pastor, he was instrumental in facilitating the first merger of a black and white church in the Louisiana Conference. Single himself, Larry has held a leadership position on the South Central Jurisdiction Single Adults Task Force.

Born in Vivian, La., and raised in Louisiana Methodism, he attended Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta and was ordained in 1977.

#### Dr. Rena Yocom

#### Area Director, Gospel Communications

Rena Yocom brings remarkable gifts and talents to the position of Area Director of Gospel Communications. She has distinguished herself among us in the fine leadership that she has given as Director of Mission Resourcing. In that role, she has helped us to move into the District Missioner and District Ministry Teams initiative, along with other important aspects of our mission journey.

Rena will continue to be the primary resource person for the training of our district missionaries. She will continue to assist each of the missionaries in specific skill enhancement and missional leadership capability.

In addition, she will give guidance and direction for the total communication initiative of the life of the conference and supervise a large portion of our conference staff. Additionally, she will help our conference relate to the

missional initiatives that are to be found in the varieties of boards and agencies across the denomination and within Louisiana United Methodism. She will continue to work with the Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty.

Church Extension will be a very significant portion of her work. She will be working closely with the district superintendents and the district church extension committees in behalf of the planting of new congregations.

Of course, as the primary mission staff leader in our Annual Conference, Rena will have a myriad of responsibilities that represents a broad cross-section of our life and work together.

Previously a member of the Kansas East Conference, Rena has transferred her permanent deacon status to the Louisiana Conference. She has extensive experience with the General Board of Global Ministries in New York City. While there, her responsibilities included implementing the "Religious Digest" radio program in Russia, overseeing the publication of over 500 print resources annually and coordinating both Global Gathering '93 and Global Gathering III. In addition, she is president of the World Association for Christian Communication-North American region and vice president of its world executive committee; chair of the Board of Publications for the American Society of Missiology; and serves as a member of an advisory board for the American Bible Society.

Rena has a bachelor's degree from Central Methodist College in Fayette, Missouri, a master of divinity degree from St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas

## Born to be wild ...

### and retiring in time to make it happen!

Thumbs up to having fun! That's the new attitude of retiring director of Conference Finance and Administration, Dr. Stone Caraway and his wife Eleanor who were honored recently at a "going away" get-together.

Some time ago someone heard Stone say he might like to take up motorcycle riding in his retirement, so we took him at his word. He and Eleanor got a feel for the road. (Well, sort of...) They are



pictured  
right trying  
out leather  
jackets and a  
motorcycle  
helmet. The  
bike,  
pictured

below, was only a training version for the big Harleys that might be in their future.

Best wishes...and, oh yeh, easy ridin'!



City, Missouri and a doctor of ministry degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary in California.

In addition to her successful career, Rena and her husband Larry reared a daughter, Joy, and a son, Ryan, and also now enjoy a two-year-old grandson, Tanner.

## Conference Program Calendar

### June

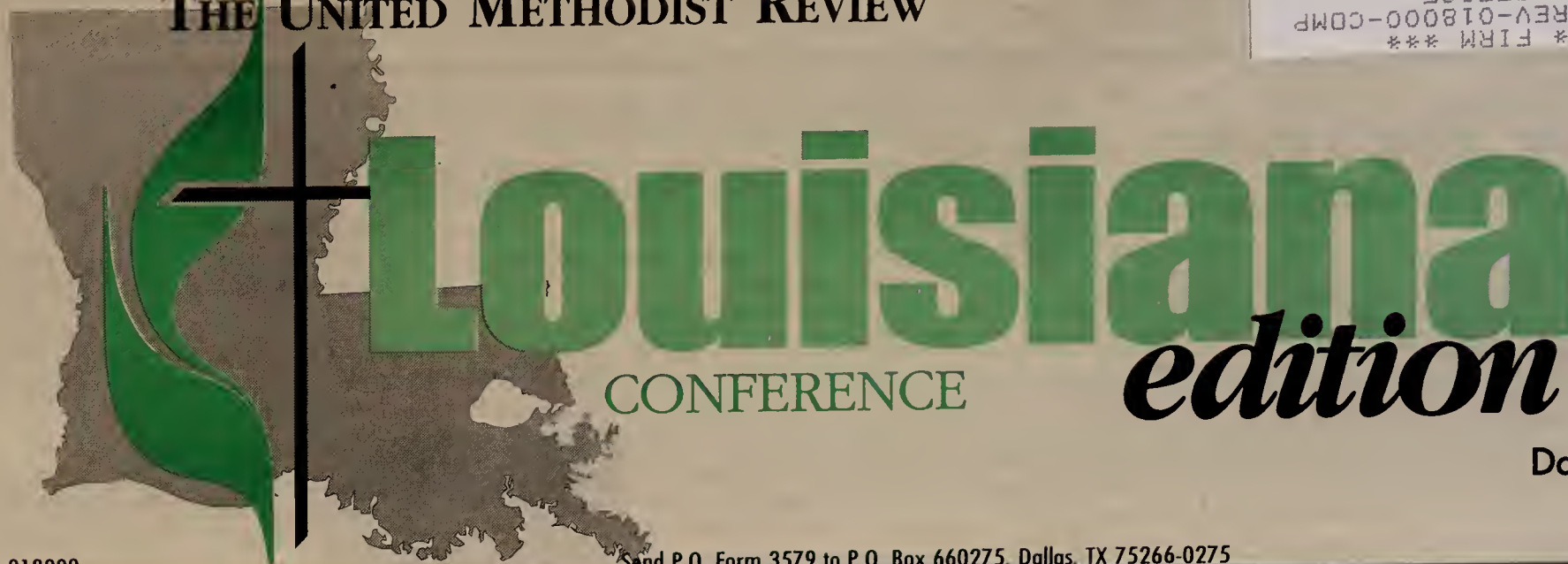
14-20 VIM Oklahoma Indian  
Missionary Conference  
15-19 Bishop's Week, Mt.  
Sequoyah, Ark.  
17-21 Cursillo #65, Louisiana  
Conference Center  
19-23 UMW West Gulf Regional  
School, Centenary College  
22-26 VIM, Youth Mission Work  
Trip, Sager-Brown,  
Baldwin, La.  
22-28 VIM, Paoli, Oklahoma  
27 Conference Center  
Meeting

### July

5-14 VIM, Mexico Mission Trip  
6-10 JYMO, Mt. Sequoyah

CONFERENCE OFFICE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:  
1.888.239.5286





Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
504.346.1646  
/504.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

Vol 15 No 15 ■ July 10, 1998

018000

Send P.O. Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

## What time is this time?

### *Excerpts from Bishop Solomon's Episcopal Address*

The following are excerpts from Bishop Dan Solomon's Episcopal Address at Annual Conference:

In his 1998 Episcopal Address to the Louisiana Annual Conference, **Bishop Dan Solomon** began:

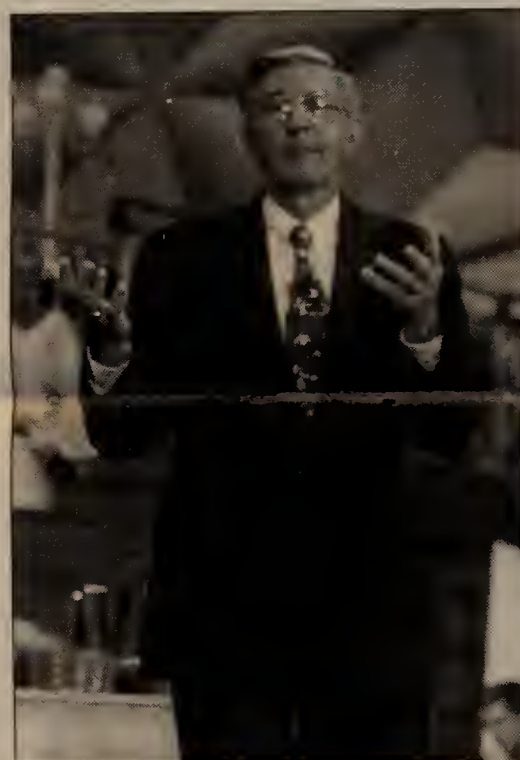
"What time is this time? This time is chronos time...that is, time marked by human reckoning. This is also kairos time...that is, time marked by God's redemption. What time is this? ...

#### **A Time to Give Thanks!**

This is a time to give thanks that many of our churches are coming alive in behalf of missional initiatives that heal the hurt of persons and offer hope to the discouraged...Thanks be to God for the congregations where new initiatives for children in the midst of poverty are taking form and flesh...Almost 5,000 persons assembled for our Special Session...and what an awesome sight it was to see 34,000 pairs of tennis shoes for distribution to children in Africa...

This is a time to give thanks for...Mission in Motion...For instance, when our trailer was in the North Shore District, over 400 flood buckets were assembled, collected and delivered. Each bucket has \$50 worth of supplies in it...If we had gone to the district and asked for \$21,000, we would have thought it a rather foolish request. We simply said, "Let's all do what we can," and God blessed and multiplied the efforts and over \$21,000 worth of supplies were brought into the warehouse at Sager-Brown...Other districts are achieving similar, remarkable results. 'Mission In Motion' is already making a profound difference!...

This is also a time to give thanks for the remarkable increase in apportionment payout across the Louisiana Conference. Our 'Portion Meant For Others' exceeded the 94 percent figure this year, the most in over a generation in the life of this Conference and we're not through yet...



**Bishop Dan Solomon delivers his Episcopal Address at Annual Conference.**

We give thanks for churches that are claiming and implementing the basics: 1) professions of faith; 2) DISCIPLE Bible Study; 3) weekends of spiritual renewal; and 4) Volunteers in Mission...

#### **A Time to 'Strain Forward'**

The apostle Paul, in Philippians 3:12-14 bears this wonderful witness: 'Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on...forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the...call of God in Jesus Christ..' This is a time to strain forward in being vital congregations filled with faithful disciples.

The great commission is not enacted by great complaining. The mission to which God calls us is not a mission of denunciation, but rather a mission of redemption.

A few weeks ago I received a mailing whose perspective and approach I find unhelpful and even destructive. It

*Please see Episcopal address, page 3.*

## Terrel DeVille: Not retired, just honored

No, he hasn't retired (as a picture caption mistakenly reported in the June 26 issue of the *LUM Review*). Terrel DeVille, president-chief executive officer, Methodist Children's Home, Ruston, is still active, in charge and ready to continue the remarkable leadership he has provided the Children's Home over the last 30 years. "My work is not done," he says, "and that's why I'm not ready to retire."



**Terrel DeVille**

custodial care home to a residential treatment facility which houses 94 youth age 13-17 at all times. "The kids are not orphans, but they are orphaned from their families because of neglect or abuse," DeVille says.

The many innovative and highly successful programs of the Children's Home are aimed at reuniting the kids with their families, if possible, but mainly they are designed to give hope and vision to otherwise hopeless youth, to teach them the redemptive power of the love of Jesus Christ and to help them know they are persons of worth.

"We see miracles here everyday," DeVille says. "These kids are my heroes. I am blessed to be doing this work."

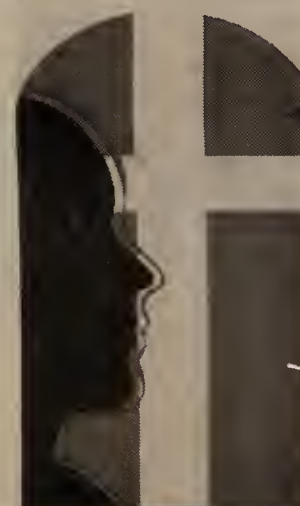
It was his 30 year anniversary in service to the Children's Home for which he was honored at a luncheon June 9 during Annual Conference. DeVille joined the organization at age 27 in 1968 as director of recreation and part-time social worker and became president-CEO in 1973. Under his leadership, the Children's Home has evolved from a

## Academy nominations due July 15

The deadline to nominate yourself or someone else for the Academy for Spiritual Leadership is Wednesday, July 15.

Approved at the 1997 Annual Conference, the Academy is designed to instill clergy and laity with the spiritual and leadership skills needed to guide the church in its mission for Jesus Christ.

The Academy requires a two-year commitment with five retreats the first year and one retreat in the second year.



"...the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace..." ROMANS 8:6

Dates for the retreats are: Sept. 18-20, Nov. 13-14, 1998; Jan. 8-9, March 12-13 and April 30-May 2, 1999.

Attendance is limited to 30 lay persons and 30 clergy. *You must be able to attend all sessions.* Applicants may nominate themselves or be nominated by a clergy or lay person.

The \$100 fee covers all five retreats including meals and lodging at the Louisiana Conference Center.

For questions or an application, contact Carol Cotton Winn at (504) 639-9531.

## INSIDE

2 A word from Angola  
3 Handy program

4 Vim opportunities  
4 Youth in the news





Dan E. Solomon

## Being and Doing

### A Word From Angola



When most of you are reading this article, Joy and I, along with Linda Boswell, Ray Caraway, James Haynes, and Cathy White will be in Angola, Africa delivering tennis shoes to children in need.

As a result of Louisiana Methodism's outpouring of love and hard work, over 34,000 pairs of tennis shoes have been sent to children in Africa. Unfortunately, for many of the children in Angola, they will not need a "pair" of tennis shoes--unfortunately, they need just one shoe. Countless children with limbs missing are stark testimony to the insanity and brutality of land mines.

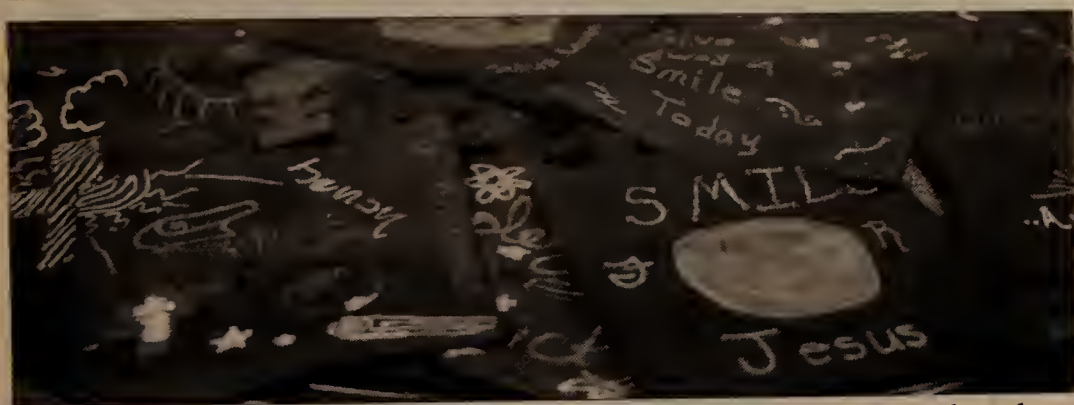
Angola has one of the highest counts of unexploded land mines of any country in the world. Daily, as children run and play, the explosion of another mine maims or kills an Angolan child. Land needed for food is left uncultivated

and power of Christ.

We shall also be distributing denim bags. These delightfully decorated bags, used by many of the persons at Annual Conference, will now become a gift to children, youth and adults. The perturbing question will be--what do I have to put in the bag?

Angolans have suffered from years of war and international manipulation. For many persons, their bags are empty. Little food, no medicine, and a missing arm or leg speak volumes about what is not in their bag.

We shall make a faithful effort to take an encouraging word from the United Methodists of Louisiana. We will tell about hundreds of congregations who collected tennis shoes. We will witness to the inspiration and love that washed over those of us commissioned at the Annual Conference to be the "tennis



Denim bags decorated by Louisiana UM youth groups and distributed at Annual Conference will be taken to Angola, Africa by the "tennis shoe delivery delegation."

because of the danger of land mines.

To this point, the United States has been one of the most resistant nations to legislation banning land mines. Land mines have often been described as the perfect soldier--no maintenance, extremely inexpensive, always scoring a hit. I believe it violates the best character of our nation to support the continued manufacture and deployment of land mines. I hope you will join me in petitioning our government to support legislation banning land mines.

Not only will we be seeing the tragic victims of land mines, we will also be seeing Angolan United Methodists responding to the suffering and tragedy in their land. United Methodists are caring for the hurting, binding up the wounds of broken bodies and spirits and helping people recover, and hold on to hope. Ministries of compassion and institutions of loving and learning are pushing against the rising tide of violence, holding back the cheapening of life and holding on to the presence

shoe delivery delegation." We will testify to the unsearchable riches of a Christ who crossed all boundaries to exemplify God's presence and power. We will pray for and be prayed for! We will worship and praise the God who in Jesus Christ has broken down the dividing walls of hostility and built bridges of reconciliation across the chasms of conflict.

We will have a family reunion. We will sit at Methodist tables. We will eat at God's altars in Methodist congregations. We will be bound in our common ministry as baptized followers of Jesus. We will say to one another and we will hear others say to us, "we are one in the spirit, we are one in the Lord." We will experience in our life the always inevitable result of mission: we who went to bring a blessing to others will be the ones most blessed!

Dan E. Solomon

## Connected Through 'A Portion Meant' for Others My Witness!

by Marcus Gaut

Hope UMC and NLU Campus Ministry, Monroe

Dear United Methodist Church Family in Louisiana,

Hello, my name is Marcus Gaut and I am a student at Northeast Louisiana University (NLU) in Monroe, Louisiana. I was born in Germany and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana, where I completed all of my elementary, junior high and senior high education. It was during the fall months of my sixth grade year in school when my family started attending St. Paul United Methodist Church in Shreveport. There I began to learn about Jesus Christ's gift of salvation to us all as well as the United Methodist tradition.

My college career began at NLU in August of 1995 with a declared major in nursing. It was not until the spring semester of 1996 (my second semester in college) that I realized that for so many years I was just "playing church" and being "religious." I began to desire a deeper relationship with God. My pastor suggested a church that I could attend in Monroe that would help me in my faith walk. That church is Hope United

Methodist Church, a new congregation begun by the Louisiana Conference. I have been a member there since the spring of 1996.

The pastor of Hope United Methodist Church introduced me to the Northeast Campus Ministry (a campus ministry supported by The United Methodist Church). After learning about the campus ministry's presence, purpose and activities, I became heavily involved in its ministry to those in need here at NLU. I am thankful to God for the campus ministry and to The United Methodist Church family for its continued support of campus ministry.

Through the payment of church apportionments, the campus ministry here at

Northeast Louisiana University and throughout the conference can continue to fulfill the mission which we have collectively been given--to go make disciples of the nations (Matthew 28:19). Please continue to support us by doing your part to make sure that all apportionments are paid.

Thank you for providing me a way to grow in my relationship with God and in my service to others.

God bless you!



Marcus Gaut

## Daughenbaugh Matheny Scholarship winners announced at Annual Conference

What do these churches have in common: Boynton UMC in New Orleans, Warren UMC in Lake Charles, First UMC in Monroe, People's UMC in New Orleans, Shady Grove UMC in Mansfield, Christ UMC in Shreveport, First UMC in New Iberia, Mt. Zion UMC in Calhoun, and Theresa Hoover UMC in Little Rock, Arkansas?

What they have is a young college student of whom they can be extremely proud, attending Centenary College or Dillard University in the fall. These are the sending churches of the ten recipients of a Daughenbaugh-Matheny Scholarship for the 1998-99 school year.

These scholarships support the future clergy and lay leadership of The United Methodist Church by helping young people to attend one of Louisiana's Methodist-related institutions of higher learning. Scholarships are awarded for one year in the amount of \$1000. Recipients may re-apply for each year of undergraduate education. A minimum 2.5 grade point average is required of applicants, along with evidence of leadership ability and commitment to The United Methodist Church.

Students may apply as graduating

high school seniors or at any point during their undergraduate education; each applicant must arrange for a personal interview with the scholarship committee.

The following recipients were announced during 1998 Annual Conference: **Kia Bruce**, senior, Dillard University; **Robert Calhoun**, sophomore, Centenary College; **Karras Dansby**, senior, Dillard University; **Kevin Forest**, freshman, Dillard University; **Jennifer Gipson**, sophomore, Centenary College; **Shaun Jackson**, senior, Centenary College; **Lajuan Landro**, senior, Dillard University; **David McCormick**, sophomore, Centenary College; **Sarah Williams**, freshman, Centenary College; **James Williams**, senior, Centenary College.

With every district in Louisiana participating in the Daughenbaugh-Matheny Scholarship Fund, two additional scholarships could be awarded this year. Encourage young people at your church to apply in the future. Forms are available from your district office or by writing Barbara B. Mollere, Scholarship Chair, 1185 Robert E. Lee Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124.



**Episcopal Address, from page 1.**

contained a litany of 'bad news'... Let's suppose we seize and shout all the bad

**If you believe God cannot bring a dead church to life, then you must forever give up celebrating Easter...**

news...Do we really think that such an approach is going to reverse a membership decline? Do we think such zealous activity is going to enhance the unity of the church and create an appealing and positive climate for reviving the church?

If you say you love your spouse and spend 90 percent of your time and hundreds of dollars to criticize him or her, question his or her motives, accuse him or her of a laundry list of wrong decisions, wrong actions, even wrong character, will your spouse suddenly praise you for your affirmation, your support and your positive partnership in the relationship?...

The United Methodist Church has an enormous amount of energy. If we will get folks as excited about reaching the lost as painting all the rest of us as lost, we will unleash a dynamic power in our churches. The Great Commission is not enacted by great complaining. ...

It must surely also be said that the Great Commission is not enacted by great comfort. Too many United Methodist churches have found their

too old to claim him for yourself. If you are too few to be a missionally effective church, then you are too few to gather in Jesus' name. If you believe God cannot bring a dead church to life, then you must forever give up celebrating Easter...

**A Time for Honesty**

This is a time to look honestly at some unique realities within the Louisiana Conference. The first is our Louisiana Conference Center.

What a marvelous facility and what an incredible potential it affords us. Now that it has been built, it is serving the mission of God in helping persons deepen their walk with Christ and mature in their discipleship...It is a place of great possibility. It is also for all of us a place

as an explanation...Every congregation must pay in full their original Fair Share Goal for the Conference Center."

Bishop Solomon also identified this as **a time to rejoice, a time for spiritual renewal and a time to repent.**

**"This is also a time to decide!"**

Our communities are filled with unsaved and unchurched people. Even in rural Louisiana there are more than enough...persons to double the worship attendance of every one of our congregations. If we can't see them, it is a sign of our blindness, not their absence...Reaching the lost, feeding the hungry, being a vibrant hopeful sign in a bewildered and distracted world depends on a decision.

One day God made a decision. God decided to send a person. One day that person made a decision. He set his face toward Jerusalem...One day Paul and others decided to take the full work of God to the full needs of the whole world. One day a man named Wesley decided to take the Gospel to the fields...

This is a time to take a stand, not for some partisan agenda...but for the clear, simple work and way of Jesus, the Jesus who loved and helped children, the Jesus who welcomed sinners, the Jesus who went

where the people were in need, the Jesus who told about grace and hope...

A Christian can climb the pinnacle of theological sophistication and can travel

## Louisiana Conference, we birthed this child!



**FLASH BACK! A 1992 photo shows Louisiana Conference leaders assembled on the site in Woodworth to hear Bishop William Oden discuss the Conference Center project.**

of urgent responsibility. Louisiana Conference, we birthed this child!

I have a question I need to put before us. How do you feel about fathers (usually the case, though it could be mothers) who refuse to pay child support? I dare say that in most every church...just about everybody is rather ready to rail against those who do not pay child support.

'Yes, but,' you're saying, 'we didn't know that the exhilarating moment of voting twice as an Annual Conference for this Conference Center would lead to this.' Welcome to parental responsibility...Do parents abandon the larger responsibility for all that is entailed in the life of a child once it is born because they had counted on a much easier time of it in the days of conception? No, parents do what is required, what the occasion demands...

We are at a moment of undeniable reality and unequivocal responsibility. The Conference Center debt of \$3 million dollars at the beginning of 1998 has already been reduced to \$2,400,000. Hallelujah and thanks be to God! This means that the interest amount that we are paying on this note has come down from the \$553 a day to \$444 per day.

Now, sisters and brothers, we have not budgeted anywhere for the interest payments. They are simply not in our budget. But that does not satisfy the bank,



**Bishop and Mrs. Joy Solomon close Annual Conference with a procession around the Gold Dome.**

the breadth of ecclesiastical polity, and can plumb the depths of missiological strategies, and if he or she have not Jesus, they have nothing.

'Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! There's something about that name!..Like the fragrance after the rain...Let all heaven and earth proclaim...There's something about that name!'"

## Handy program encourages young adults to choose mission career

NEW YORK (UMNS)--A new program aimed at encouraging young people to pursue careers in mission work is being launched by the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.



**Bishop W. T. Handy, Jr.**

"The Bishop W.T. Handy Jr. Young Adult Missioners" is about "building a new generation of mission leadership," explained the Rev. John McCullough, the board's associate general secretary of mission personnel. "We're looking to identify young people who have an expressed interest in service to the church and who may want to live that out in a mission context."

The program is named in memory of Bishop W.T. Handy Jr., who was active both in young adult programs and mission-related work. Handy died on April 12.

The number of career missionaries serving the church has decreased significantly because of retirements and the high degree of career changes occurring in today's work force. Young Adult Missioners is one way to address that decline, according to McCullough.

Although the Board of Global Ministries has provided mission opportunities for young adults in the past--most notably the US-2 and mission intern programs--the new effort will be larger and more broadly based, he said.

As a program that stresses mission "from everywhere to everywhere," it will highlight the increasing number of people from outside Western countries "who are in the frontline of mission," he said.

Videos and audio cassettes of Bishop Dan Solomon's Episcopal Address at Annual Conference 1998 are available from the Louisiana Conference Resource Center.

Share it with your Sunday School class or worship service to unite your church in mission.

**Call Shirlene Spears at (888) 239-5286 to order your copy today.**



**Delegates pack flood buckets for a "hands-on" mission project during Annual Conference.**

comfort zone. They are simply 'waiting it out,' whatever 'it' is. They are 'sitting on it,' whatever 'it' is. They are 'holding firm,' whatever it is they're holding. Their language reflects their lethargy. 'We are too old. We are too few.'

Now let me ask, have you not heard that Jesus came to save us, one by one? Have you heard that Jesus did not live by age and gender distinctions? If you are too old to give Christ away, then you are





## THE CONFERENCE

## NEWS

## In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to: Mrs. Debra Harry on the death of her husband, Rev. Richard Harry (retired, Acadiana), pastor emeritus, Warren UMC in Lake Charles, June 3. A musical tribute and memorial services in his honor were held July 5-6 at St. Mark UMC in Opelousas.

Mrs. Anne Kittrell Elliott on the death of her husband, Rev. Gary Lee Elliott (Monroe District), June 15. Rev. Elliott was on disability leave. A worship service of praise and thanksgiving was held in his honor at Delhi UMC June 18. The family is requesting that donations in his name be sent to the Louisiana Ministers Emergency Fund c/o the Louisiana Annual Conference.

Mrs. Catherine Smith Augustine on the death of her husband, Rev. Louis Augustine, June 8. His funeral was held June 14 at Thompson UMC in New Orleans.

Dr. Linda Sabin, former pastor, Holly Ridge UMC (Monroe District), on the death of her mother, Mrs. Merle Emerson, June 23. A memorial service was held in her honor June 29 at St. Paul's UMC, Monroe, with Dr. Woody Hingle officiating.

Mrs. Tricia Hensarling, wife of Rev. Dale Hensarling, pastor, Love Chapel (Shreveport District), on the death of her brother, Robert Ray Smith, June 17. His funeral was held June 21 in Winnfield.

**Louisiana Conference Edition  
of the  
United Methodist Review**  
Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

## EDITORIAL TEAM:

Dr. Rena Yocom, Director,  
Gospel Communications  
Bobbie Armstrong, Editor  
Dr. Alonzo Campbell

Subscriptions \$12.50 per year  
Send subscriptions, news and  
information to:  
Editor

527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
1 (888) 239-5286  
(504) 346-1646, (504) 383-2652 fax  
e-mail: laumc@premier.net

## On the Web

You can find the Louisiana Annual  
Conference on the Internet at

[http://www.gbgm-umc.org/  
louisiana-conference/](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/louisiana-conference/)

## DEADLINE FOR:

July 24 Issue—July 13

## Tune up those bikes for UM ride-in

by Rev. Judy Shema

## Tulane Campus Ministry

Calling all motorcycle enthusiasts! Come to a ride-in at the Conference Center August 13-15. We will arrive Thursday evening for an early morning ride on Friday through the pines and over the hills in the heart of Louisiana.

Friday evening we will have a special worship service and time for fellowship of United Methodist bikers and their friends. A representative of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation will be present. We'll recognize the best, the loudest, the most chrome bikes and other fun categories. Riders will return home Saturday so they won't miss worship with their home congregations Sunday.

So, tune up that bike, call your friends and come enjoy meeting bikers from across the state. Please help spread the word by telling anyone you know who rides about this unique gathering.

We have made arrangements to stay at the Conference Center and eat our meals there. As part of our package they will provide us with a sack lunch to take on our Friday ride. Call the Conference Center at (318) 449-4500 to make your reservations.

Organizers of the event are Rev. Judy Shema at the Tulane Campus Ministry in New Orleans (504) 866-8681, Rev. Jon Lord, pastor of the Dubach-Harmony Chapel Charge (318) 777-3966 and Rev. Gene Finnel from Covington First UMC (504) 892-4694.

## Youth in the News



**Spirit Wind youth choir (above) of Trinity UMC, Ruston, recently participated in a choir tour to New York City. Sixty-two youth and adults were in ministry on a Peace with Justice tour that included a concert at the United Nations. The youth (grades 7-12) toured other cities as well.**



**The Bayou Eagles Dance Group of Dulac (above left) performed at Houma Heights UMC on May 24 for Native American Sunday. Asbury UMC's (Natchitoches) basketball team (above right) got game! They recently won their second Natchitoches Youth Christian Basketball Championship.**



**YOUTH VIM TRIP — Wow, what a difference 13 UM youth, a little paint and a lot of hard work can make! The house above (before, left and after, middle) is proof that kids in mission (with a little adult supervision) can cause transformation. During the week of June 21-26 the youth group from churches in the North Shore District worked at Sager-Brown in Baldwin painting the house and sorting jeans collected at Annual Conference (photo right).**

Louisiana VIM  
Opportunities

**August 16-23, PAOLI, Oklahoma--** The congregation being served by Rev. Jeff Duke, former pastor in the Louisiana Conference, is in the process of building a new sanctuary/educational building. This work camp will assist in finishing the interior of the building. Inexperienced general helpers, painters, carpenters, flooring persons are needed. Bob Marshall (318-436-3226) is project leader. Meals and lodging will be onsite. Cost will be approximately \$100. Call Bob Marshall for details.

**July 14-August 14, Immanuel UMC parsonage, LAFAYETTE, La.--** Small teams of experienced and inexperienced carpenters, painters and general helpers will renovate the parsonage in preparation for a new pastor. Work dates of one-, two- or three-day duration will be supervised by an on-site director. Cost will be on-your-own meals and lodging.

**Summer and Fall, UM Children's Home, RUSTON, Louisiana--** Work teams of short and longer duration are needed for various projects at the OWL Center (Outdoor Wilderness Learning). This includes the completion of six plywood, tent-like cabins and platforms. Contact the VIM Office for information and scheduling.

For information or scheduling for these or other VIM projects, contact **Larry Norman, VIM director, at 888-239-5286.**

Conference  
Program Calendar

## July

- 15-18 UMW Conference School of Christian Mission, Centenary College, Shreveport
- 19-25 Harvest of Hope, Mer Rouge, La.
- 24-26 Happening #12, Conference Center
- 25 Conference Center Board Meeting, Conference Center
- 29-30 Cabinet, Baton Rouge
- 30-Aug. 2 Cursillo #66, Conference Center

## August

- 6-13 ICYCE (International Youth 18-30 yrs. old), St. Simon Island, Ga.
- 9-15 VIM Youth Mission Trip, HPI, Little Rock, Ark.

**CONFERENCE OFFICE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:  
1.888.239.5286**





# Louisiana

## CONFERENCE

### edition

Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
504.346.1646  
/504.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

018000

Send PS Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

Vol 15 No 16 ■ July 24, 1998

## *A child in Africa gets tennis shoes*

# Tennis Shoe Delivery Team travels to Africa

by Bobbie Armstrong  
Editor, LUM Review

It was a long way to go to place tennis shoes on the feet of children in need, but travel a long way they did. On Sunday, July 12—ten months after UM churches all over Louisiana brought 34,000 pair of tennis shoes to Pineville, La. for children in Africa—the Louisiana Annual Conference Tennis Shoe Delivery Team laid dozens of pairs of the collected shoes on an altar in the Central UM Church in Luanda, Angola, Africa, where they were consecrated by Bishop Emilio de Carvalho, resident bishop of the West Angola Conference. The shoes were representative of a container of 8,000 pair which are enroute to Angola. The other 26,000 pair have been shipped by the UMCOR Depot to other African countries.

The team, commissioned at Annual Conference and made up of Bishop Dan and Mrs. Joy Solomon, Rev. James Haynes, Linda Boswell, Cathy White and Ray Caraway, was, according to Bishop de Carvalho, the first delegation from a U.S. annual conference to visit in the history of Angola. Formed to personalize the delivery of the tennis shoes to Africa, the team journeyed to the West Angola Conference to affirm Louisiana Methodism's solidarity with Angolan Methodists and the children of Africa.

Prior to the consecration service, the team invited children to the UM compound where they were staying and distributed some of the tennis shoes to them. For Joy Solomon, placing the tennis shoes on the children's feet was the culmination of her two-year mission to help children in Africa who get sick and sometimes die from walking in unsafe places without shoes. The children, who must walk long distances for survival, cut

their feet and get serious infections from the open wounds. She inspired the Louisiana Annual Conference's efforts to collect the tennis shoes which were



**Mrs. Joy Solomon puts a pair of tennis shoes collected in Louisiana on a small child in the arms of Bishop Dan Solomon in Angola, Africa.**

brought to the Louisiana Conference Special Session on Children in Need last October. What was it like for her to finally bring shoes to some of these children? "The need is so immense here. I wanted to go home and get 100,000 more pair," Mrs. Solomon says.

In this country ravaged by 25 years of civil war, the team witnessed abject poverty everywhere, says Bishop Solomon. "Angola is not just *in crisis*, it *is a crisis*. These people's needs are as acute as any I have ever seen."

In the middle of all the hopelessness and bleak surroundings in Luanda, the port city where the team was based, The UM Church offers five centers which are "little oases of hope in a desert of poverty," the bishop explains. Further to

the north, the team visited a refugee camp where many Methodists have had to flee after losing everything to warring factions. But they have hope, the bishop says, "the remarkable courage and capacity for hope you see among people of faith."

And, they have a wonderful spirit of community, says Rev. James Haynes, pastor, St. Mark UMC, Baton Rouge. During the worship service Sunday, churches from all over that district in Angola, poverty stricken themselves, came together and brought envelopes of money for the African Church Growth and Development Fund and commodities like bread or cloth, whatever they had, for their brothers and sisters in the refugee camps. They raised a total of \$5-6,000. "They were dancing and singing and giving it joyfully," Rev. Haynes said. "I wish we had that kind of spirit here."

A long way to go...but this is about more than just tennis shoes. "I think our visit meant a lot to the United Methodists in Angola," says Ray Caraway, president, United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana. "To them, isolated and shut off from the rest of the world, our offering of help shows that someone cares...that someone knows they're suffering and wants to help." (Photos for this story by Ray Caraway.)

**Editors note: Wondering what you can do? Watch for upcoming articles on how the Louisiana Conference will be reaching out to the people of Angola.**



Boys at a refugee camp in Angola.

## A CALL TO Prayer

*"God of Grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power... Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour... for the living of these days."*  
Harry Emerson Fosdick

There are pivotal moments in the life of the church. The moment may pass as just another day in the lives of many members of the church, but it is a moment that may affect the future of the church for decades to come.

August 6th and 7th may be such a moment. These are the dates that the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church (the highest court in our church) will hear appeals regarding the legal status of certain statements regarding homosexuality which are in the Social Principles of the 1996 *Book of Discipline*.

Throughout Louisiana on these days there will be prayer vigils to offer petitions for the unity of The UM Church and for wisdom for those who must hear and speak regarding the church's constitutional matters. Prayers of support will be included for Dr. Tom Matheny, president of the Judicial Council and a member of First UMC, Hammond. We will ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, not only for the denomination as a whole, but also for the individuals who will be presenting briefs for consideration.

**If you are interested in participating in or forming a prayer vigil, please contact Letty Strawbridge at (504) 275-3462.**

## INSIDE:

- 2 Unless!
- 3 Ephiphany Ministry
- 4 Acadiana District News
- 5 Alexandria District News
- 6 Baton Rouge District News





Dan E. Solomon

## Being and Doing

# 'Unless!'



Winter in Luanda, Angola is not harsh if one's only measurement is the weather. The days are cool, the nights comfortable—unless!

In many ways Angola is facing an enormous "unless." Unless the internal civil war stops, more lives will be lost. In 25 years of war, over one million Angolan lives have been lost—and millions more have experienced suffering, dislocation and starvation.

Unless the Angolan government and the international community find a way to stabilize the political and economic life of the country, more years of bloodshed and hardship are inevitable. Ranging from political corruption in "high" places to the daily search of the garbage dump for a scrap of food in "low" places, Angola is a country in crisis.

Into this country of crisis, Joy and I, along with the Louisiana Conference Tennis Shoe Delivery Team of James Haynes, Linda Boswell, Cathy White, and Ray Caraway travelled earlier this month. We took a suitcase filled with tennis shoes which were consecrated on the altar of Central United Methodist Church, Luanda, Angola on Sunday, July 12. These shoes, along with a container of 8,000 other pair of tennis shoes will be distributed to "children in need."

There are many stories and insights that will come from each of us as we reflect on our experiences and try to put them into the perspective of God's work of justice and mercy. There were moments we saw and understood hope as the visible sign of help for a little street child. There were other moments when the enormity of the suffering and the need for a pervasive restructuring of the life of the nation left us with sadness. Always, however, we were inspired by the faithfulness and perseverance of our United Methodist sisters and brothers. They are people of enormous faith and courage!

Nowhere was this more poignantly illustrated then in a heart-rending setting

about 50 miles north of Luanda, Angola's capital city. We had driven on roads with huge potholes and even ditches that crossed the crumbling blacktop. Arriving at the site of a newly established "refugee" city, we conferred with relief workers and the new residents who were busy constructing little huts of reed and tree limbs. A few days earlier these folk



had been enjoying life in their village to the north, working their fields and caring for their children. Now they had nothing, having lost everything when rebel and guerrilla forces overran their village, looting and wantonly destroying all in their path.

Bishop Emilio de Carvalho, resident bishop of the West Angola Conference, talked at length with several refugee United Methodists. Their pastor had escaped to Luanda. Their village was in ruins. They were now refugees, but they were also the people of God—a United Methodist church on an exile journey. Their one request to their bishop was not for food, medicine, or even advocacy with the government to help get them back to their home, though all of these were urgently needed. Rather, they made a simple, yet earnest request, "Send us a pastor as soon as possible!"

My understanding of their plea focuses on three vital and constitutive marks of our life as United Methodists:

1) God's mission is our sustenance and our service. We cannot survive

without God's mission to us. God's mission is a mission of love and hope, possibility in the midst of problems, resurrection when all seems lost. We want someone among us who tells us the story, serves to us the "spirit" and serves us in the "power of the spirit."

Having their servant pastor in their midst would not only help this little refugee band focus on God's mission, it would also be a means of guidance for their mission. Even in their need to be helped there lived the essential need to be also a helper.

2) We are shaped by apostolic connections. The plea of the refugees is an apostolic one: "send someone to us." Methodism is marked by a "sent" ministry. Nowhere is our connectedness as a missional people more clearly demonstrated than in a pastor's appointment. While every baptized United Methodist in the refugee camp is a "minister," the serving of the sacraments by the visible presence of the "sent one" will gather this little band into the awesome love of God, the reassuring witness of God's powerful presence and the care and encouragement of a United Methodist global community.

3) We are nourished and renewed by incarnation. An absent pastor wouldn't be any more plausible than an absent God, or a distant Christ, or a theoretical Holy Spirit. Love is experienced, touched, and is concrete. It is the very nature of the Word to be "made flesh." As surely as we are saved by God's Word made flesh, we are nourished and renewed when we "offer the Word" by our life and our labors.

In times of ease, our distinguishing marks are taken for granted. When life is pressed against the wall of inescapable finality, our pleas identify our deeper needs.

Dan E. Solomon

## Mission Motorcoach Tour celebrates 50 Years of Advance, Rio Grande Conference

A 6-day Advance Mission Motorcoach Tour of San Antonio and Corpus Christi, Sept. 28-Oct. 3, will celebrate 50 years of the Advance for Christ and His Church and its support of the Rio Grande Conference. The tour will promote the conference's Advance Parish Partner Program goal of \$200,000 per year (Advance No. 531733-1).

Beginning in San Antonio, the tour

will visit Rio Grande Conference churches and projects, including historic mission sites. For fun, tour participants will enjoy Fiesta Texas, the San Antonio River, and the Hemisphere Cultural Center. Along the way, the tour will visit vital churches and mission projects. It will end in Corpus Christi with time for seashore visits.

The Rio Grande Conference is the

only Spanish-language conference in The United Methodist Church.

Royce Hardaway Tours is organizing this mission tour as a contribution to the Rio Grande Conference Advance Parish Partner Program. Call the tour reservationist at (210) 408-4513 for information and a brochure. Roy D. Barton, director of mission interpretation, is tour coordinator.

## Women in Ministry Celebration calls for quilts

The rich tapestry, diversity and strength of a quilt will be the inspiration for a Women in Ministry Celebration event Aug. 31-Sept. 2 at Mount Sequoyah Conference Center in Fayetteville, Ark.

The celebration, sponsored by Women in Ministry of The United Methodist Church's South Central Jurisdiction, will have as its theme "Binding the Sacred Remnant." Among the expected participants are women in professional ministries, local pastors, permanent deacons, elders and other interested women.

Keynote speakers will be:

**Bishop Janice Riggie Huie**, resident bishop in the Arkansas Area of The United Methodist Church. Bishop Huie oversees the work of the church within the Little Rock and North Arkansas Annual Conferences.

**Carolyn McCrary, Th.D.**, associate professor of pastoral care and counseling at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta.

**Mary Anne Reed, Ph.D.**, a marriage and family therapist and organizational development consultant in private practice in Dallas. She also serves as adjunct faculty at Perkins School of Theology and as director of the Labyrinth Project at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Dallas.

The celebration will feature a display of quilts. Participants are encouraged to bring a quilt from their conference, district or church or a personal favorite.

Total cost for resident participants (those staying at Mount Sequoyah) is \$150 per person for double occupancy or \$175 for single occupancy. A limited number of scholarships is available. For more information about registration, contact DeeDee Autry at (501) 329-3801.

## Mt. Sequoyah hosts Grand Weekend

United Methodist grandparents and their grandchildren will gather Aug. 6-9 at Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center in Fayetteville, Ark., to build stronger bonds of family and faith.

The event, called Grand Weekend,



will kick off a series of fall programs aimed at older adults. Throughout the August event, grandparents and grandchildren will participate in activities related to the Bible and Christian values, Native American culture and trust-building.

For more information about Mount Sequoyah's programs, visit [www.mountsequoyah.org](http://www.mountsequoyah.org) or call (501) 443-4531. (from *Methodists Make News*)





# Epiphany Ministry of Louisiana

Louisiana Advance Special Mission #4440  
Helping Youth Experience the Love of Christ



## Youth recalls 'amazing' Epiphany weekend

Hi. My name is Katie Logerot. I'm writing to tell you about the Epiphany Prison Ministry of Louisiana. The Epiphany Ministry is an ecumenical ministry designed to bring Christ's love to incarcerated youth in Louisiana. The ministry consists of a three-day weekend followed up with monthly reunions.

I first became involved in the Epiphany Ministry approximately two years ago at the age of sixteen. Being a young person myself, I was both scared and excited. I was scared because of my age. I didn't know how the adults would treat me. Would they give me respect? Would they ridicule me? I was excited because I was finally going to be able to help people my age. I was going to help the people the world says are helpless and hopeless.

But, I quickly learned that I had nothing to worry about. The people I have met through Epiphany Ministry have been nothing but wonderful. I found that the adults actually respected me because of my age. They realized that I was important and that I did count even though — or perhaps because — I was a youth.

The first Epiphany weekend took place in August of 1997 at Jetson Correctional Center for Youth in Baker, La. That weekend, we worked with about 32 young girls. We presented talks about our jour-

neys with God, we participated in small group discussions, we presented Bible dramas, and we showered them with God's love shown in various ways.

That weekend was absolutely amazing! We went in with mixed emotions. We didn't know what to expect. All we knew was that

God had called us to do His work there and that we had responded with, "Here I am Lord." We went in with the faith that through continuous prayer God would work miracles. And He did. Several of the girls have told us that their lives will never be the same because of those three days we spent with them. That weekend also did something wonderful to me. It made me realize how many wonderful things God has blessed me with. What an awesome God we serve!

Since that first weekend, an Epiphany Board, which I am blessed to be a part of, has been set up, a second weekend was held, and plans for the third weekend are under way. The Epiphany Ministry has come a long way in its two years of existence, but it has along way to go.

During this year, The Year of the Youth, remember

Epiphany in your prayers and your support. Through your financial support and the grace of God we can continue to change the lives of youth across the state.

Thank you and God bless!



Katie Logerot shares her experience with Epiphany during Annual Conference.

Photo by Bobbie Armstrong

## Letter from a Star

My relationship with God was filled with my sin and my outrageous doubts. God had placed a want on my heart. That want was to believe in him. I wanted with all my heart to be able to believe, really believe in him, so I could love him. But for some reason, I kept doubting him. I knew it had to be Satan, but even knowing this didn't stop me from doubting. I cried with frustration. I read the Bible but didn't understand and what I did understand, my doubts made it impossible for me to believe. Yet I kept wanting and wanting to believe in God. I felt even more doubtful because nobody was around me to help me believe. I kept saying, "I can't do it alone." Little did I know then that God knew this. All the time y'all spent preparing and planning Epiphany #1, I was crying out for help from anybody.

Then the weekend came and on the first day my first thought was, "these people want to like and love us, yet why? What made them love us?" My answer came from y'all's own teachings. Y'all said God loved us and y'all loved

us! God was showing me through y'all that he is real and to believe. He said to me, "Look at these people I sent you. They are real Their love is real. Their love is my love. My love is real. I live in the people. My love lives in the people. Why not live in love?" Then I believed. I knew God was real. Was and is real. He's real in me. Now, I plan to show others also that he lives in me because he is real. I want to help others believe. God bless you.

R. Broussard

## Announcing

Spring 1999 Epiphany Central #1  
at the new youth prison being  
built in Jena, La.

To get involved, contact:

Rev. John Johns at Nolley  
Memorial UMC, P.O. Box 127,  
Jena, LA 71342

(318) 992-4020 or 992-5024

## What is Epiphany?

### The Meaning of Epiphany

Epiphany is a Greek word meaning appearance, and refers to the revelation of God's love throughout history, especially in the life and atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

### The Ministry of Epiphany

Epiphany is an ecumenical Christian ministry for young people who are in the custody of the Department of Youth Services. The ministry consists of three-day weekend courses in Christianity with

follow-up programs.

### The Mission of Epiphany

Epiphany strives to manifest God's love to these young people known as Stars through a team of adults and youth from the Christian community.

### The model for Epiphany

Epiphany is modeled after similar weekend ministries such as Kairos Prison Ministry, Kairos Outside, Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, Tres Dias, Chrysalis, Vida Nueva, Happening and Cross.

Contact Rev. Debbie Drash, Coordinator, at P.O. Box 86863, Baton Rouge, LA 70879 or (504) 751-2913.

## Making a difference in young lives

by Carol Spisak, Lafayette, LA  
Lay director, Epiphany #3

As one who has been involved in prison ministry for the past four years, I thought I was a veteran...that I had seen it all. After all, I had served on two outside cook teams and been on five inside teams at L.C.I.W. (Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women). So, when I was asked to be a member of a team of volunteers to take a three-day weekend to girls at Jetson Correctional Facility for Youth, I happily agreed. Epiphany #1 team was formed and on August 8, 1997, I was one of thirty seven volunteers waiting inside the gym at J.C.C.Y. for the "Stars" to enter. (That's the name given to the youth who attend an Epiphany weekend).

Nothing I had ever encountered at an adult facility, or thought I had prepared for during the team formation meetings, had adequately prepared me for that moment. I had seen women in prison. I had served meals for men behind bars. But what came through those doors were young girls, ages 12 to 18. Most of their faces were expressionless. Many looked confused, even angry.

For the next three days, their lives took on some degree of normality. We sang songs, played games, shared a birthday party, snacks, and told them about God's love and how special they were to Him and to all of us. By Sunday, some of the girls had managed to let their guard down enough to exchange hugs. But for others, a lifetime of abuse, neglect, peer pressure

and even abandonment prevented them from being able to believe us or trust us. We were never able to penetrate the walls they had learned to live behind in able to survive in a world that seems so foreign to most of us. We would soon be leaving to go home to our daughters and start shopping for school clothes, and planning for their futures. These girls would be going back to dorms behind fences topped with razor-blade wire, with no plans or even hope for their futures. To believe us or trust us could only be setting them up for more disappointment, more pain.

However, we serve a mighty and faithful God. We go back monthly to spend time with our "Stars." What comes through those gym doors now are smiling faces, outstretched arms looking for hugs and voices filled with excitement and laughter. For two hours on the third Saturday each month, their world becomes much like that of other girls their ages. We laugh with them, cry with them and listen to them as they make plans for their futures. Over the months, we watched and rejoiced as their walls came down. We all leave now counting the days until we're together again.

I don't think I will ever get used to seeing children behind bars, but I thank God for the opportunity to be a part of a mission committed to manifesting His love to these precious members of his household.

I leave you with these words from Matthew 18:14, "In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones be lost." Thanks be to God!

## Epiphany needs you!

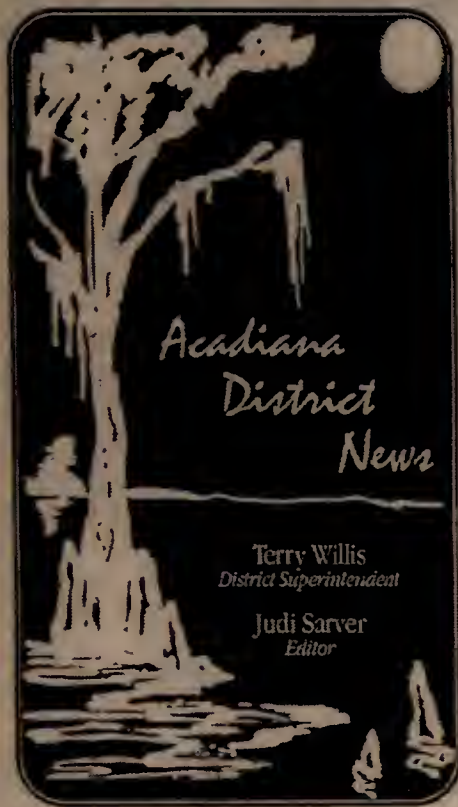
Here are some things you can do:

- Pray for the ministry and the Stars.
- Requested prayer time for Epiphany #3 at Jetson Correctional Center for Youth is 7 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 6 through 7 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 9. A prayer chapel will be held at First UMC, Baker.
- Send "paper agape" (expressions of love such as letters of encouragement, posters, bookmarks, etc.). Paper agape for Epiphany #3 should be sent by July 29 to Jerry Lynne Guerin, c/o

Apostolic Action, 1821 Wooddale Court, #211, Baton Rouge, LA 70806. Call 800-641-5812 or e-mail at sales@apostolicaction.com for instructions.

- Participate in the follow-up program as a mentor.
- Serve on an Epiphany Weekend Team (you must be 18 or older and have attended a similar weekend).
- Sponsor a Star (\$50 will furnish one Star a Bible plus meals and expenses for the weekend).





850 Kaliste Saloom Road  
Suite 217  
Lafayette, LA 70508  
(318) 235-0080

## Discerning Notes...

by Judi Sarver

### District Communication Advisor

On a rainy Sunday afternoon Linda Boswell, Acadiana district missionary, and I headed to Indian Bayou UMC to meet with some of their laity and their pastor, Lloyd Scott, for a "Discerning Gifts" visit. Linda had made several of these visits to other churches, but for me, it was a first and I wasn't exactly sure what was about to take place.

The process was simple and painless for everyone. Following work on an historical dateline, we moved into discerning what strengths and programs Indian Bayou currently has. With this information in hand, Linda can match Indian Bayou with another congregation that may need help establishing or strengthening a program Indian Bayou already has in place.

The final process was determining what direction and new programs Indian Bayou would like to put in place. We also discussed what assistance (if any) they would need. If Indian Bayou chooses, a follow-up visit will be scheduled at which time more assistance will be given in implementing the plans.

Our two hours together passed quickly. By the time we were finished Linda and I both felt that we had a new group of friends. The goal of the District Ministry Team is to visit every church in the district. Contact Linda Boswell at the District Office (318) 235-2904 to schedule a "Discerning Gifts" visit to your church.

# Reflections from our DS

Rev. Terry Willis

Annual Conference is over and we have new faces in our midst. We extend a warm and hearty welcome to the following new pastors and their families as they join our district family: (1) Burton and Ginger Blair, who have moved to FUMC, Franklin-McGowen; (2) Ed and Rita Boyd, to Asbury UMC, Lafayette; (3) Curtiss Eden, to Bayou Blue and Houma Heights; (4) Timothy and Beverly Lawson, to FUMC, Houma; (5) T. Lynn and Vanessa Malone, to Pharr Chapel, Morgan City; (6) Darryl and Carolyn Tate, to Northwood UMC, Lafayette. To each of you, we hope your stay will be rich and rewarding. Know that our prayers and support are always with you and may God continue to bless your ministry here in Acadiana.

And then, let me share a personal note. Judy and I just celebrated our 40th anniversary of marriage. When we were first married, I thought I knew everything there was to know about her, for we had gone together for several years before "tying the knot." However, I am still discovering facets of her personality that are completely new to me. (I'm sure you will understand if I don't go into detail at this time.)

Now, to the person yet to "take the



plunge," this may be a bit disconcerting. But I have learned that part of the richness of married life lies in this very unpredictability. It adds mystery and excitement and adventure to the relationship, along with a few frustrations.

And so it is, even more so, in our relationship with God. You can never put Him in a box. You can never have Him "all down" in a sermon. We are forever discovering some new and contradictory piece of evidence about Him. And I think that is forever adding a bit of mystery and excitement and adventure to the relationship. It is a great adventure--one we can only continue to discover and encounter with awe and wonder.

I thank God for these two wonderful relationships and the unpredictable, yet exciting journey I know I am yet to experience. I also look forward to the unpredictable, yet exciting journey that we in the Acadiana District are destined to experience together.

G  
R  
P E A C E  
C  
E

## Rally 'round the flag, boys!

### Dinners to raise funds for UMM flagpole project

Acadiana District United Methodist Men will hold two dinners simultaneously to raise funds to complete the Conference Center flagpole project.

The dinners will take place at First UMC, Thibodaux, and Asbury UMC, Lafayette, on Saturday, Aug. 15 from 4-7 p.m.

Tickets will be available from the pastors and lay leaders of both churches at a cost of \$7.50 for adults and \$5 for children age 12 and under. Families of five or more can purchase dinner for a flat fee of \$25.

The flagpoles serve as a memorial for deceased men of the conference. Memorial plaques are available for a donation of \$100. Contact Clifton Conrad, Acadiana District UMM president, at (318) 235-1941 for more information.



## A Church For All God's Children Hear the challenge



Hear the challenge. Hear the call.

Is your church really considered to be "A Church for All God's Children?" All Louisiana United Methodist congregations will be invited to accept the challenge and to respond in specific ways to be more responsive to the needs of children and families in their church and in their community. You will be asked to help reshape the life of the church in response to the crisis among children.

A challenge, a call, a crisis, a checklist, a church...and a choice to be made. Choose carefully and compassionately...change the world, one child at a time.

## District youth on a mission

Several of the Acadiana District's youth groups have been on mission trips this summer. Asbury's youth went to Nashville, Tenn. where, in addition to working on the church building at Edgehill UMC, the youth also helped out at a day camp operated by the church.

The youth of First UMC, Lafayette, and First UMC, New Iberia, combined forces this year for a mission trip. They headed to San Marcos, Texas, where they performed a variety of jobs including light construction and clean-up work.

First UMC, Houma, sent a group to Southeast Oklahoma to work with the United Methodist Indian Missions while the youth from Louisiana Memorial UMC, Opelousas, participated in the Noah's Ark Mission at Heifer Project International.



## Let us pray ...

"Let Us Pray," a pastor and laity training event will be led by Dr. Terry Teykl, Saturday, September 12, from 9a.m.-4 p.m. at Asbury UMC, Lafayette.

The cost is \$20 per participant which includes a workbook and lunch. Brochures with registration forms are available at Asbury and the District Office. Please register by September 1. For more information, call Asbury UMC at (318) 984-4211.



## Youth learn valuable lessons about homelessness at Confirmation Shack-In and Service project



Confirmation class members help prepare lunch at a soup kitchen in Alexandria.

On Friday, May 8, the 1998 Confirmation Class at First UMC in Alexandria got together for a Shack-In to learn a little of what it would be like to be homeless. The class, along with chaperones

Nancy Wofford, director of Christian Education and Programs, and parent, Dr. John Sams, slept outside in the FUMC playground on cardboard boxes using only newspapers for cover. They learned some of the hardships that people must face in their daily struggle to live.

The next morning the class served lunch at Manna House, Alexandria's soup kitchen, from 10 a.m.-12 noon.

Through these experiences, the class became more aware of the needs in our community and of our responsibility as Christians to meet those needs.



Youth from First UMC, Alexandria slept outside on cardboard boxes using newspapers for cover.

## Pineville First UMC holds groundbreaking ceremony

On a beautiful Easter afternoon, April 12, First UMC of Pineville held a groundbreaking ceremony for their new physical plant to be located on Highway 165 in Pineville. Over 200 people participated in this joyous occasion which marked the official beginning of construction on a 53-acre site located between Highway 165 and Military Highway, just south of the Cottingham Expressway.

The new location will be the fifth to

be founded in Jewish scripture.

Twelve spades of dirt were turned by representatives of our community of faith: Jacob Butterfield, children; Brandon George, youth; Rabbi Task, our Jewish heritage; Rev. Jon Telligero, former pastor; Rev. Donald Avery, Alexandria District Superintendent; Rev. Jimmie Pyles, former pastor; Jack Stehr, chair of Building Committee; Marilyn Farrar and Georgie Dunbar, women of the church; Randy DeLoach, contract



Twelve spades of dirt were turned by community of faith representatives during a groundbreaking ceremony at FUMC, Alexandria.

house the ministry of First UMC Pineville since its beginning 125 years ago. The groundbreaking service included prayer and praise, wonderful music and words from Bishop Dan E. Solomon, Alexandria District Superintendent Donald R. Avery, Ruston District Superintendent Jimmie D. Pyles and others. Rev. J. Roddy Taylor, pastor, led the service and Rabbi Arnold S. Task, Congregation Gemiluth Chassodim of Alexandria, led in a prayer of blessing, symbolizing that Christianity

supervisor; Joe Boyd, chair of the Administrative Council; and John Groves, whose family has been a part of FUMC for generations.

Following the service, everyone present took the opportunity to turn a spade of dirt as his or her part in the groundbreaking ceremony.

If all goes according to plan, the first worship service in the new facility is tentatively scheduled for Easter Sunday, 1999.

## Colfax UMC youth earn money for mission trip

Six youth from Colfax UMC traveled to Nashville, Tenn., June 12-19 to participate in "Mission Fuge," an interdenominational Christian work camp where they took part in daily service projects, Bible study and fun.

Along with youth from Colfax Baptist Church, they raised \$816 to cover the cost of the trip. Joint ventures between the two youth groups to earn the money included barbeque dinners and a carwash.

Members of the church supported the youth by contributing to a special Sunday offering and donating building and gardening tools and clothing for the



homeless which the youth took with them. A program called "U-2-N Mission" allowed church members to support the youth in prayers and by writing personal letters of encouragement and support which the youth read daily while they were at the work camp.

The young people from Colfax UMC who took part in this mission effort were: Thomas Dean, Mollie Duncan, Adrienne McGee, Barrett McGee, Michael Reichardt and Ryan Yerby.

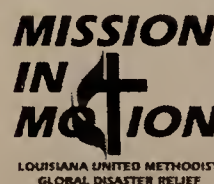
Colfax UMC is very proud of its youth for wanting to go, working hard to pay the expenses of each member of the group, helping others and for being outstanding ambassadors of the church.

## Mission in Motion locations announced

It's almost time for the Alexandria District's opportunity for hands-on mission to those in need! The Mission in Motion trailer will arrive at First UMC, Natchitoches, Aug. 2 and stay there until the 9th. From Aug. 10-18 it will be at Nolley Memorial UMC in Jena and from Aug. 19-30 at First UMC, Alexandria.

Each church in the district will be collecting a specific category of items, so check with your church coordinator for items needed.

The Mission in Motion trailer, which is filled with items to keep the UMCOR Depot at Sager-Brown stocked with relief supplies, has been rolling to a different district in the Louisiana Conference each month since February. Items collected by those districts have already been distributed by UMCOR to tornado victims in the Southeast.



# Alexandria District News



2013 MacArthur Drive  
Bldg. 2, Suite 2  
Alexandria, LA 71301  
(318) 443-3213

**Dist. Superintendent**  
Rev. Don Avery  
**Communication Advisor**  
To be named

## Alexandria District Ministry Team

**District Superintendent**  
Rev. Don Avery  
**District Missioner**  
Pam Crews  
**Lay Leader**  
Ned Randolph  
**CFA**  
V. J. French  
**Board of Church Bldg./Location/Ext.**  
Rev. James Graham  
**Education Ministries Leader**  
Eloise Cox  
**Renewal Ministries Leader**  
Dianne Allen  
**Meditative Ministries Leader**  
Rev. Doug Cain  
**Outreach Ministries Leader**  
Rev. Mark Bray  
**Communication Advisor**  
To be named  
**Youth Representative**  
Rebecca Eskew  
**Youth Coordinator**  
Rev. Pam Fitch  
**Values Team Representative**  
Rev. James Ray  
**At Large**  
Joe Page  
Terry Velten



# Baton Rouge District News



5713 Superior Drive  
Suite A-1  
Baton Rouge, LA 70816  
(504)

**Dr. Leslie Norris**  
District Superintendent

**Hallique L. Dawson**  
District Communication Advisor

## 1998 Baton Rouge District Ministry Team

### District Superintendent

Dr. Leslie Norris

### District Missioner

LaMarylis Cotten

### District Lay Leader

Joyce Robinson

### Finance and Administration Rep

Rev. Frank Akin

### Board of Church

#### Building/Location/Extension

Gordon Morris

### Communication Advisor

Hallique Dawson

### Values Team Rep

Ava Smith

### Education Ministries Leader

Sue Catchings

### Renewal Ministries Leader

Dale Jones

### Meditative Ministries Leader

Rev. Debbie Drash

### Outreach Ministries Leader

To be named

### Youth Coordinator

Faye Ross

### Youth Representatives

Kristin Ballard

Ashley Flynn

Katrina Spottsville

## Introducing our Baton Rouge District communication advisor

by LaMarylis Cotten  
District Missioner

The Baton Rouge District Ministry Team wishes to introduce to the



**Hallique Dawson**

conference Mrs. Hallique L. Dawson, who will be the Baton Rouge District communication advisor. Hallique will be responsible for gathering and submitting all Baton Rouge District news articles for

the LUM Review.

Hallique has been a member of Camphor UMC for over 25 years and comes to us as a diaconal candidate, having completed all of her course work. Before his death in 1989, her husband was an associate professor of English at Southern University. Hallique has a master's degree from Southern University in Counseling and Elementary Education. She is certified in Counseling, Elementary Education, Administration and Child Welfare. She retired from the East Baton Rouge School system as an elementary school counselor and has been "working harder ever since."

She is the mother of four beautiful and handsome children. One of her daughters is a kindergarten teacher and the other a CPA at Exxon. Her sons are a computer analyst and a plastic surgeon. She has six grandchildren.

Hallique has been serving as a volunteer on the District Ministry Team, making many church visits with the district missioner. It is our delight and blessing from the Lord to welcome her officially as a member of the team, assured of her dedication to the Lord and her capacity to share herself in His work.

## The District Missioner's Digest

### Look what God has lead us to do!

by LaMarylis Cotten  
District Missioner

Before the 1998 Annual Conference, the District Ministry Team was asked to make "Discerning Gifts and Visions" visits to at least 10 churches. I am very happy to report that the Baton Rouge District completed 12 wonderful and inspiring visits. Visits were made to Baker, Blackwater, Clinton, Deerford, Jackson Chapel, Jackson, Mt. Zion, St. Francisville, St. Paul (near the airport), St. Paul at Ethel, St. Peter and Tunica UMCs. A member of the team soon will be forming an ad hoc team within these churches to further this work.

Our second round of visits will include 14 churches: Asbury, Beech Grove, Bethel, Bluff Creek, Clear Creek, Concord, Ethel, Evangeline, Moses Chapel, Mt. Carmel, New Hope, Slaughter, Wesley at Wilson and Zachary. We look forward to these new visits to seek more resource leaders that can be available conference-wide. We are grateful for the opportunities that God has provided for us to meet with the laity and pastors and to visit in their churches.

Our team and task groups are planning other visits to nearly every church in the district to distribute "A Church for All God's Children" covenant packets and provide information on the Bishop's Appeal for the Children of Africa. We value these times together as

we strengthen our relationship with the churches of our district. The United Methodist Church is important to each of the team members and we desire to assist in furthering its relationship with the Baton Rouge District communities.

It is my prayer that these teams can extract so many resources that there won't be anything found lacking whenever a United Methodist Church in the Louisiana Conference might need to develop or enhance a program. Within minutes we want to be able to secure what you need. We want to help your United Methodist congregation grow beyond its walls until you touch the boundaries of your neighboring United Methodist congregations and then continue until we, as one body, envelope the globe for Jesus Christ.

## Look, listen, act

Every church is doing something great. Share your happiness with the rest of the conference. We would love to hear and see what you are doing in your church.

Send news and pictures to:

Hallique L. Dawson  
2624 79th Avenue  
Baton Rouge, LA 70807  
Fax: (504) 355-5996

## Camphor UMC takes enrichment program to prison youth

Camphor Memorial UMC recently took its Cultural Tutorial Enrichment Program (CTEP) to the prison inmates at Jetson Correctional Youth Center in Baton Rouge.

Rev. Roger D. Lathan, pastor, conducted a spirituality workshop attended by 56 boys and girls at the prison, enhancing the theme: "Be Smart, Be Safe, Stop the Violence." Entitled "Dry Bones," his message was taken from the Book of Ezekiel, chapter 37. Hallique L. Dawson, director of CTEP, offered the youth "food for thought" to examine their own spirituality from a poem entitled "His Pain, Their Gain."

God is working through all persons who go out and witness to make disciples for Jesus Christ, wherever they may be.



**Rev. Roger Lathan, pastor, Camphor Memorial UMC, discusses "Dry Bones" at a spirituality workshop at Jetson.**

## WELCOME ...

### Welcome to new clergy and spouses:

**Robert and Peggy Burgess** - Broadmoor, Baton Rouge

**Carl and Ann Rhoads** - Conference Executive Director of Administrative Services/Treasury/Secretary

**Terry and Mae Mulkey** - Wesley United Methodist Church, Baton Rouge

**Welcome clergy and spouses who moved within the district:**

**Robert and Carolyn Ross** - Evangeline, Baton Rouge

**Frank and Leslie Akin** - Ingleside, Baton

**Rouge Curtis and Willie Nell Johnson** - Shiloh-Lejune-Maringouin

**Roger and Debbie Mosher** - New River-St. Amant

**Micheal and Barbara Miller** - Tunica  
**Kenneth and Bobbie Reed** - Senior Advisor/Consultant, United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana

**Larry Norman** - Conference Director, Volunteers in Mission

**Rena and Larry Yocom** - Area Director, Gospel Communications



## A Word to Witness

### A senseless death...a reminder of our task

by Dr. Peter Harrington

Pastor, St. Matthew's UMC, Metairie

For most of us who live in a metropolitan area, the daily accounts of murder and mayhem are so commonplace as to produce a numbing affect, and we, with a sense of being distanced from all this, move to other areas of the newspaper.

But as I write these words, I am still reeling from the horrible murder last week of one of our Day School mothers, a terrible event that has thrust itself off the pages of the newspaper and into St. Matthew's face-to-face.

Jennifer Arrazote was a delightful 29-year-old mother who brought her beautiful three-year-old son Nicholas to St. Matthew's every morning before going to her work at Lee Michael's Jewelry in the Lakeside Mall. Every morning she and Nicholas would come by and greet me because Nicholas didn't want to begin his day without smiling at Dr. Harrington. Although there are no perfections, Jennifer and Nicholas presented almost a calendar-like picture of mother and child.

I will never forget the phone call that Friday: there had been a killing in the mall and one of the deceased was a St. Matthew's Day School mother. Her husband, Nelson, a violent and unstable individual with an insane passion for weapons, had gone to the mall and shot Jennifer and her co-manager dead.

The scene at St. Matthew's was something I've never witnessed. The entire church campus was surrounded with state police, sheriff's deputies and SWAT personnel. Not knowing where the husband was and fearing that he

might come to the Day School and take young Nicholas or take his life, the church resembled an armed camp. At the end of the day, we witnessed one of the saddest vignettes you will ever see: Little Nicholas walking towards a sheriff's patrol car, holding on to a deputy with both hands, visibly excited to be riding in a police car. He was utterly unaware that he had lost his mother or that within three days his father's suicide will have left him parentless.

Nicholas is back now, told that his mother died and has gone to heaven. It now falls to his grandparents and the rest of us to be a support system for this innocent child and help him grow into a young man, unwarped by this unspeakable series of events. In time, all this will become a memory. It is our prayer that Nicholas will look back on these days as a time when he was surrounded by loving and caring people in whose compassion God was very, very real.

Although most of us are never affected by such a disaster, is it not true that our task as Christians is to offer hope where hope seems foreign and love when it is needed the most? Are we not called to take every person, of any age, and shelter them in the arms of God through our own efforts?

And so...as Nicholas comes to school every day, we move in his direction with open arms because that is precisely what God calls us to do at every moment for everyone.

*Editor's note: Dr. Harrington reports that Nicholas has been legally adopted by his mother's sister and her husband.*

### Course of Study at Millsaps registration due Aug. 1

They drive in for weekend classes from Louisiana and as far away as Texarkana, Tex. and Gainesville, Fla. Over two hundred local pastors from nine conferences attended the Mississippi Course of Study School at Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss. this year.

But, if you're planning to make the drive this Oct. 9-10 and 23-24, better sign up soon. **Registration deadline is Aug. 1.** Classes last from Friday evening through Saturday afternoon.

This October, the first-year course will be taught by Roger Thompson, a pastoral counselor at Riverchase UMC in Birmingham, Ala. "The Pastor as Caring Person" (COS-104) is the title of his course. For the eighth straight year, Larry Goodpaster will teach "Preaching I" (COS-204). Goodpaster was appointed at annual conference to Tupelo First UMC, having served as superintendent of the Tupelo District, Mississippi Conference.

Sam Morris has been the instructor for

"People of God 2: The Life and Faith of the New Testament Church" (COS-301) since 1992; he has taught it both in Mississippi and in the Course of Study in Israel program. Morris will teach "People of God 1: Life and Faith of Israel" (COS-201) in the Holy Land this year. He serves Galloway Memorial UMC in Jackson, Mississippi, and is the preacher for "The United Methodist Hour" television and radio programs.

Richard Robbins has taught two of the biblical courses in the Course of Study curriculum and has taught every year since 1991. In October, he will teach "Word of God 1: Old Testament Texts" (COS-401). The instructor for "Word of God 2: New Testament Texts" (COS-501) is Steve McDonald. Since 1994 he has taught this course every year in Mississippi and twice in Israel.

The director of Mississippi Course of Study is Bert Gary. Contact him at (601) 353-8178 or by e-mail at: bertgary@netdoor.com to register.

## Highlights from Annual Conference 1998

The 1998 Session of the Louisiana Annual Conference made many decisions related to its theme, "One Generation Shall Tell Another of The Mighty Acts of God." Here's a summary of 1998 Conference actions. The official record of the Louisiana Annual Conference will be published in the journal, available in the early fall.

- The Commission on Archives and History will publish a pictorial history of the churches of the Louisiana Conference in 2000.
- The Task Force on the Episcopal Initiative on Children in Poverty will focus on youth in crisis in 1998 with a conference-wide youth event featuring Dr. Tex Sample and Mrs. Celia Whitler to be held at the Conference Center in September.
- The Committee on Rules proposed structural changes in the organization of the annual conference that will ensure compliance with the *Book of Discipline*.
- Nine district missionaries, a major component of the new conference organization, gave an historical first report of their ministry.
- A resolution celebrating the life of the late Bishop William Talbot Handy, Jr. was passed.
- Dr. Michael Lomax, newly elected president of Dillard University, gave his first report to the conference which stated in part that this fall the largest freshman class in the history of Dillard will be enrolled.
- The newly created Academy for Spiritual Leadership, which will enable the Louisiana Conference to fulfill its mission to raise up spiritual leaders, will enroll its first class of lay and clergy in the fall of 1998.
- Quality Discernment Teams continue to focus the conference on more fruitful ways to do ministry.
- It was announced that the Congress on Evangelism will be held in New Orleans in January, 1999.



The Conference Choir performs for the Wednesday evening worship service at Annual Conference.

- An Administrative Task Force and a Leadership Task Force to cast a new vision for effective Campus Ministry was created as a result of a Campus Ministry Summit held during the past conference year.
- Scholarships were presented to students of Centenary College and Dillard University.
- "Flood Buckets" of cleaning supplies were filled by delegates and will be distributed through the UMCOR Depot at Baldwin, La.
- "Takin' it to the Streets" activities of Volunteers In Mission prior to and during Annual Conference sessions gave delegates and other volunteers opportunities to give blood, donate over 2,000 boxes of macaroni and cheese and over 10,000 pairs of blue jeans, work in a soup kitchen, teach in Vacation Bible School at a homeless family shelter, repair homes, etc.
- Assets of the United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana have grown to \$70 million.
- The Conference approved a Miracle Night offering of at least \$200,000 to be brought on Monday night of next year's Annual Conference session in response to the Bishops Appeal for the Children of Africa.
- Louisiana Conference churches which initiate certain prescribed ministries to children this year will be recognized at the next session of Annual Conference as "A Church for All God's Children."
- The annuity rate for retirees for 1999 will be \$393 per service year (up \$28 per year from 1998).
- A conference budget of \$6,584,773 (no increase from 1998) was approved for 1999. The reduction of the Pension Fund by \$250,000 allowed for reallocation of these funds to a new line item for Conference Center loan reduction.
- The membership of the Louisiana Conference grew by 577 in 1997 to a total of 126,459. Conference apportionments were paid at a rate of 94.13 percent, which was 4.03 percent higher than 1996 and the highest rate since 1985.
- A resolution from the Conference Board of Trustees expressing appreciation to Dr. Tom Matheny for his leadership was approved by the conference.





# AROUND THE CONFERENCE NEWS

## Algiers UMC VBS kids 'travel' to distant lands

For the past several years, Algiers UMC in New Orleans, located in a racially diverse area, has had a Vacation Bible School attended mostly by church members and friends. Having been challenged by the Bishops' Initiative to reach children, the church decided to make greater efforts to open its VBS to the community. Advertisements in the local newspaper and a banner announcing the dates and times for VBS



on the church lawn announced registration to all children.

The results were fantastic! As many as 35 children from both the church and the surrounding neighborhood came to learn about how God's people pray around the world.

Each day the children "traveled" to a distant land such as Latvia or Namibia to learn how Christians from these countries pray and how we here in the United States can pray for them. Singing songs and waving banners, the children ended the week with a New Orleans tradition, a parade around the neighborhood (pictured above). The Sunday following VBS, the children were recognized as they presented the Lord's Prayer in sign language and sang a favorite song from their week at Algiers UMC VBS.

**Louisiana Conference Edition of the United Methodist Review**  
Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Dr. Rena Yocom, Director,  
Gospel Communications  
Bobbie Armstrong, Editor  
Dr. Alonzo Campbell

Subscriptions: \$12.50 per year  
Send subscriptions, news and information to:  
Editor

527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
1 (888) 239-5286

(504)346-1646, (504) 383-2652 fax  
e-mail: laumc@premier.net

### On the Web

You can find the Louisiana Annual Conference on the Internet at

<http://www.gbmg-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>

### DEADLINE FOR:

August 7 Issue--July 27

**LAFAYETTE, LA--Construction--Immediately--Sarah Schoeffler--(318) 234-4042**

Immanuel UMC parsonage is being readied for a new pastor. Experienced and inexperienced carpenters, painters, flooring persons are needed. Individuals are invited to join teams from Lafayette churches. Cost will be on-your-own meals and lodging.

**R U S T O N CHILDREN'S HOME OWL CENTER--Construction--On-going--Paul Sabin (318) 255-5020**

Four-person, plywood cabins and a bath house are being build to facilitate "Project Fish" as well as on-going repairs to existing facilities. Day-long or weekend work teams can be scheduled. Cost is on-your-own meals and lodging.

**PAOLI, OK--Construction--August 16-22--Bob Marshall--(318) 436-3226**

The congregation served by Rev. Jeff Duke is building a new activity building to serve a growing program. General helpers, experienced and inexperienced carpenters, painters, plumbers and electricians are needed. Cost will be \$100

## >>>YOUTH>>>YOUTH>>>YOUTH >>>

**YOUTH IN MISSION LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE, Conference Center--November 22-25**

A must for the youth of local churches with proven and developing leadership potential. Each local church Administrative Council is asked to elect and send at least two youth to this event at local church expense. Speakers and trainers, including Bishop Dan Solomon, will help youth identify and develop missional leadership skills. Cost is \$90, all inclusive. Contact Larry D. Norman, Louisiana VIM director for information.

for food, transportation and insurance. Lodging will be at the site.

**COLQUEAMAYA, BOLIVIA-- Medical--September 11-20--Larry D. Norman--(888) 239-5286**

One Spanish translator is needed. Cost is \$1,125 all inclusive.

**HONDURAS--Medical--October 3-11--Buddy Frenzel-- (318) 527-6472**

Two openings available for medical professionals or lay-helpers. Cost is \$700 all inclusive.

**HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL,**

**PERRYVILLE, AR--Construction, farm work, educational and International HPI Celebration--October 11-17-- Rev. Robert Ross (504) 356-4459**

Annual event. Work teams go to the International Learning and Livestock Ranch of this UM-sponsored facility to learn and do their part to alleviate world hunger. Over 800 people from around the world will participate on Saturday, Oct. 17. Cost is approximately \$160, including meals, lodging in the "Heifer Hilton," training and transportation.

## 'Oh, the places you'll go!'



Thirty-nine people from the Louisiana Conference Council on Youth Ministry (CCYM), pictured left, attended the Jurisdictional Youth Ministry training event July 6-10 at Mt. Sequoyah. The banner, "Life, Oh the Places You'll Go!," was purchased by the CCYM as part of the YSF fund raiser for the jurisdiction.



## In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to:

**Mrs. Adelaide Henry Frazier** on the death of her husband **Rev. Clyde C. Frazier**, retired (New Orleans District), July 10. His funeral was held July 13 at Rayne Memorial UMC in New Orleans with Dr. John Winn and Rev. George Duerson officiating.

**Mrs. Marie Moore Harper** on the death of her husband **Dr. Jolly (Hunter) Ross B. Harper**, retired (Alexandria District), July 7. His funeral was held July 11 at First UMC, Natchitoches. The family has established a scholarship in his name at Centenary College. Donations should be mailed to P.O. Box 41188, Shreveport, LA 71134.



## Louisiana Methodist Children's Home

presents

Healing of body, soul, and spirit...  
a Christian psychiatric perspective

with

**DR. PAUL MEIER**

Medical Director

New Life Clinics, Plano, Texas

Monday, August 10, 1998

8:45 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Two Half-day Seminars

Louisiana Methodist Children's Home

Pastoral Care Center  
Ruston, Louisiana

FOR RESERVATIONS

Call (318) 255-5020

Ask for Amy Hood

Each half-day seminar is \$30,

plus \$5 for CEU

Both seminars are \$50,

plus \$10 for CEU

## CONFERENCE Program Calendar

### July

29-30 Cabinet, Baton Rouge

30-Aug.2 Cursillo #66, Conference Center

### August

6-13 ICYCE (International Youth 18-30 yrs. old), St. Simons Island, Ga.

10-16 OIMC VIM Mission Trip

21-23 Adult Workers with Youth, Spiritual Renewal, Conference Center

23 Christian Education Sunday

27-29 DISCIPLE Bible Study Training, Baton Rouge

### September

11-20 VIM, Bolivia (Medical)

12 North Louisiana Summit, "Children in Need," Trinity UMC, Ruston, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

12 Uskitchto Board of Directors Meeting, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

17 UMW Annual Meeting, Ruston

CONFERENCE OFFICE  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:  
1.888.239.5286



# Louisiana

CONFERENCE

## edition

Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
504.346.1646  
/504.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

018000

Send PS. Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

Vol 15 No 17 ■ August 7, 1998

*Louisiana celebrates Christian Education Sunday, Aug. 23*

## Offering to support 'one-of-a-kind' ministry to youth at St. Mark's

*"Children learn by observing teachers who model the excitement of learning—teachers who are the aroma of Christ." -- Elaine M. Ward*

by Kay Irby

Director, Mission Resourcing

Churches across Louisiana will be observing Christian Education Sunday on August 23, celebrating teachers and students who have experienced the "aroma of Christ" in their learning together.

Faith is nurtured in Sunday school classes, DISCIPLE Bible Study groups, youth fellowship, and choirs, covenant groups and many other settings—opportunities for Christians to gather and learn together. This special Sunday is sometimes the occasion for teacher dedication services, promotion day, presentation of Bibles to children, and other events that highlight the value of Christian education for the life of faith.

Christian Education Sunday is also a time to share. The offering received in

local churches this year will support an exciting new ministry in our conference. St. Mark's Community Center in New



Orleans is opening an "Alternative School" for high school students who have been identified by the school system as being at high risk because of

expulsion or drop out. They may also have a high propensity toward future violence. It is a one-of-a-kind ministry in Louisiana that has its basis in a Steet Academy that has had great success in getting junior high students back on the right path. Help is greatly needed to get the high school open. School is about to start, and it will take \$30,000 to open 10 classrooms for this very special educational ministry.

In this year when we are called to remember "Youth in Crisis", this offering is an opportunity to spread the "aroma of Christ" to troubled youth.

For more information about Christian Education Sunday, contact Kay Irby at (888) 239-5286. For the ministry at St. Mark's Community Center, call (504) 529-1681.

## They may not bring you apples ...

You are teaching a generation that may be more in need of spiritual truth than any previous generation. The next time you are tempted to hang it up, consider that in a recent survey:

▼ 82% of the people surveyed said the idea that "God helps those who help themselves" is taken directly from the Bible.

▼ 66% said there is no absolute truth.

▼ 63% could not name the four Gospels.

▼ 58% could not name half or more of the Ten Commandments.

▼ 58% did not know that Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount.

The lack of intelligent information about faith in our culture may lead kids to the conclusion that the Christian Faith is simply not credible. Or more likely, they won't consider the Christian faith in the first place. When you sign on to teach, you inherit a group of kids at an age when they are *most open to Christ*. They may not bring you apples, but someday you will hear the words: "Well done."

—From *Help! I'm a Sunday School Teacher!* (Zondervan 1995) by Ray Johnston.



## Forming a Faithful Future: Keeping in Touch With God's Grace

### *A Litany of Celebration & Dedication*

**Pastor:** As persons committed to the teaching ministry of our congregation, let us join in this litany of dedication and celebration.

**Leader:** Through all that we do as a congregation, we seek to form faithful disciples of Jesus Christ who live out their faith in service and witness in the world. To that end, each of us is called to be on a life-long journey of learning.

**Congregation:** We affirm our commitment to a life-long journey of learning toward becoming more faithful disciples.

**Leader:** As we celebrate the educational ministries of our congregation, we recognize the need for spiritual growth that involves a commitment to practicing the disciplines of the faith.

**Congregation:** As persons on a journey toward a faithful future, we dedicate ourselves to the practice of the Means of

Grace: prayer, Bible study, participation in the Lord's Supper, fasting, Christian conferencing, and acts of mercy.

**Leader:** There are those among us who have been set apart as teachers and leaders in the educational ministries of our congregation. As those persons

stand in their places, let us affirm their dedication and work on our behalf in the ministry of forming faithful disciples.

**Congregation:** We affirm your place in the teaching ministry of our congregation and express appreciation for the untold hours of preparation and leading represented among you. We commit our

prayerful support as you lead us toward becoming more faithful disciples.

**Teachers/Leaders:** We have accepted the call to lead and now affirm our commitment to the educational ministries of this congregation. We will seek to prepare ourselves as spiritual leaders, practicing the disciplines of the faith as we guide others toward faithful discipleship.

**Pastor:** Let us express our gratitude to God: We give you thanks, O God, for the gifts of teaching and learning. Guide those who have answered your call to lead in our educational ministries. Give each of us full awareness of your presence, as together we seek to inform and to form, to lead and to follow, to strengthen and to be strengthened. We give you praise and thanksgiving for all that we are and for all that we will be through your guidance. Amen.



## INSIDE:

- 2 A 'Miracle Night Offering'
- 3 Louisiana VIM news
- 4 Lake Charles District News
- 5 Monroe District News
- 6 New Orleans District News
- 7 A View from the Pew
- 8 'Here I am, Lord.'
- 8 DISCIPLE Bible Study Training





Dan E. Solomon

## Being and Doing

### A 'Miracle Night Offering'



Perhaps the terminology—"Miracle Night Offering"—is inaccurate. Perhaps we should call it—"Well Within Our Reach Offering."

Whatever we call it, now is the time to begin collecting our funds for a one-time great offering of \$200,000 on the opening night of Annual Conference 1999 for the Bishops Appeal for the Children of Africa.

shacks of the surrounding slums. Seldom have I seen hope spelled out in bricks and mortar so dramatically.

The Bishops Appeal for the Children of Africa will raise \$12 million to help rebuild ministry settings for children—churches, schools, clinics, guidance centers, orphanages. Even \$12 million dollars will be the barest of beginnings, but it will make an important difference!

sanctuary where some gnarled old logs were used as pews. Our hearts were heavy for our sisters and brothers who had to gather in such a ravaged sanctuary, their own poverty preventing its refurbishment.

In that sanctuary, however, was a sign of hope and a sign of our life together. Amidst the grey of the walls and the dirt of the floor was Methodism's colorful



Photos by Ray Caraway



**Photo left:** Light streams through the ceiling of a war-ravaged United Methodist church in Angola, Africa. The "cross and flame" painted on the wall reminds the Tennis Shoe Delivery Team that they are "at home."

**Photo right:** African children find refuge, education and caring at a United Methodist Church center in Luanda. Most of their peers, however, are living in the dismal slums surrounding the center without the benefit of hope.

The total is well within our reach. We have all year to gather funds that equal **\$5 per average worship attendee**. Our only limitation will be our lack of creativity and planning.

The children of Africa are suffering the horrors of violence, war, hunger, disease and dislocation. United Methodist church buildings and institutions have been looted and destroyed. Sunday School rooms need to be rebuilt. Clinics need to be restocked. Ministries of Christ's love urgently need facilities in which to teach, share and help.

When our "tennis shoe delivery team" was in Angola recently, we visited modest, but clean and attractive, church centers where hundreds of children were being taught, fed, loved, and helped. The colorful, painted rooms were in sharp contrast to the dismal, deteriorating

Actually, our goal in Louisiana is embarrassingly modest. Surely we can easily exceed \$200,000.

Every child can be asked to save \$5 for the entire year. Every teenager can be asked to earn and give \$5. Every adult can be asked to make their \$5 gift a living example of Second Mile Giving.

There are ten (10) months between now and Annual Conference. Can we not save the cost of one soft drink (50 cents) per month for meeting an urgent need among the children of Africa.

Consider another illustration: contributing just two cents per day will result in more than \$5 per person for this special offering.

In a church building some fifty miles north of Luanda, Angola's capital city, our "tennis shoe delivery team" gathered under a roof only partially covering the

symbol of "the cross and the flame" painted on the front wall of the sanctuary. We knew we were not only in God's house, we also knew we were "at home" with our relatives in a United Methodist family that reaches around the world.

Our family members in Africa are suffering! We can help! When we bring our \$5 per average worship attendee from each of our churches to next Annual Conference's Miracle Offering, the "miracle" will not be in what we do, but in what God does in and through the lives of all who are touched by this special appeal.

Dan E. Solomon



**Left:** Bishop Dan and Mrs. Joy Solomon gave tennis shoes collected in Louisiana to Angolan children at a UM compound in Luanda.

**Right:** Youth gather to meet the Tennis Shoe Delivery Team at a refugee camp in Angola. Their homes were destroyed by war.



## Agencies to contact for ethnic-minority grants

The following agencies (staff members and phone numbers) offer grants for ethnic-minority ministries:

**General Board of Church and Society** (Phyllis Freeman, 202/488-5642) for leadership development, training, education, and advocacy; **General Board of Discipleship** (Sang E. Chun, 615/340-7050) for Christian education, Quest, discipleship ministries, Upper Room, worship, stewardship, evangelism, curriculum, or family ministries; **General Board of Global Ministries** (German Acevedo-Delgado, 212/870-3711) for church extension, outreach ministries, or salary supplements; **General Board of Higher Education and Ministry** (Kil Sang Yoon, 615/340-7389) for leadership in higher education or ordained ministry; and the **Minority Group Self-Determination Fund** (Barbara Thompson, 202/547-2271) for anti-racism workshops, proposal-writing workshops, or consultations on cross-racial appointments.

Also contact: **Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century** (Andris Salter, 937/227-9400); **National Plan for Hispanic Ministries** (Jose Palos, 212/870-3693); **Native-American Comprehensive Plan** (Ann Saukneah, 918/745-0848); **Asian-American Language Ministry Study** (Jong Sung Kim, 212/870-3829); and the **Korean-American Ministry Task Force** (Bishop Ha-Jong Kim, 716/271-3400).

*Reprinted from United Methodist Newscope.*

## Centenary College named among best

Eleven UM schools have been named among the best Christian colleges in the U.S. for the upcoming academic year by *America's Best Christian Colleges: 1999*, a 242-page book recognizing 87 schools that have the highest academic standards among church-related schools.

The UM schools are: Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham, Ala.; **Centenary College of Louisiana, Shreveport**; Florida Southern College, Lakeland; Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina; Kentucky Wesleyan College, Owensboro; McKendree College, Lebanon, Ill.; Oklahoma City University; Southern Methodist University, Dallas; Southwestern College, Winfield, Kan.; University of Evansville, Ind.; and Wofford College, Spartanburg, S.C.

*—from UM News Service*





# Louisiana Volunteers in Mission

## Making a Christian Difference

### A new level of commitment: Interview with VIM Director Larry y Norman

To make a Christian difference—that's the goal of Louisiana Volunteers in Mission and that's been happening for a while both in the lives of the people being served and the volunteers serving. But, at this year's Annual Conference, Bishop Dan Solomon appointed the Louisiana Annual Conference's *first* full-time VIM director. He is Rev. Larry D. Norman, former pastor of Evangeline UMC in Baton Rouge, and long-time advocate of and participant in VIM.

In a recent interview, Larry answered some questions about Louisiana VIM.

#### LUMR: Why a full-time VIM director?

**LDN:** For over four years and at various times throughout the history of our conference, there has been a VIM committee in Louisiana quietly doing mission. A few years ago, Bishop Solomon came to our conference and appointed a part-time VIM director; we are deeply indebted to Dr. Alonzo Campbell who served in that position and accomplished a lot of things. The need and enthusiasm with which the Louisiana Conference has responded to these VIM initiatives has moved us to a new level of commitment—a full-time VIM director to which I am pleased to have been appointed.

#### LUMR: What is the basis for VIM?

**LDN:** The ministry goal of VIM is to make a Christian difference. While we first think that means a difference in the lives of the people being helped, often, the most profound difference is made in the lives of the people who have volunteered either prayerful support, monetary support, personal encouragement or physical labor. VIM allows us to give for giving's sake, to step out on faith, to love others we are traditionally unaccustomed to embracing and to walk in the Great Commission of making disciples. For some, VIM involvement simply shows tangible results of prayer and energy exercised in faith for the building of the Kingdom. We learn how to do the action

and leave the results to God. This is why we want to offer mission experiences to as many persons as possible.

#### LUMR: Where does VIM take place?

**LDN:** VIM takes place at home (the Louisiana Conference), in our country (USA) and in other countries throughout the world.

#### LUMR: What's in the works for Louisiana VIM?

**LDN:** Currently the 1999 calendar of opportunities is being developed which will offer a variety of destinations, costs and jobs to be done. At home, VIM work teams will be going to most of the agencies in the Louisiana Conference such as Sager-Brown, the Children's Home in Ruston, Dulac and LaFon Home in New Orleans, plus the Conference Center and the camp facilities. In addition, we are setting up mission projects in each of the districts.

Out of state, we will have work teams going to the Red Bird Missionary Conference in Kentucky, Mt. Sequoyah and Heifer Project International in Arkansas and the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference (OIMC). Internationally, work team projects are being negotiated in Brazil, India, Jamaica, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Chile and Bosnia to name a few. We have confirmed trips to Barcelona, Spain; Bolivia; Cuba; Honduras and Ghana, Africa.

#### LUMR: What about disaster response?

**LDN:** A new Disaster Response Network is being designed with the help of Disaster Response Coordinators Robert Ross and Sue Pugh (who have been trained by UMCOR) and the district ministry team outreach coordinators. This new network will allow us to better respond to storms and accidents in Louisiana and also be a part of disaster response in other conferences. This will also strengthen our response of material resources when disaster strikes around the world.

#### LUMR: What volunteers are you looking for?

**LDN:** We will be looking for people to volunteer for construction, medical and evangelistic teams. We will also be looking for leadership for these teams. All team leaders will be trained at our annual leadership training event in January, so I urge people to start thinking about that possibility.

#### LUMR: What about VIM opportunities for youth?

**LDN:** We are currently completing plans for a youth leadership event. Youth work teams are scheduled for HPI and plans are being completed for teams to travel to OIMC and Operation Hands Together in Mexico.

### South Central Jurisdiction Volunteers in Mission Gather in Oklahoma for CELEBRATION '98

Every two years our VIM friends in the Oklahoma Conference gather VIM'ers from all over the nation and the world to CELEBRATE and

to inform. This November 6 and 7, the gathering, once again at Oklahoma City's Church of the Servant, will feature Father Elias Chacour of Israel, Jeremy Basset, Oklahoma missionary to South Africa and Alan Kirton of the General Board of Global Ministries.

Louisiana VIM'ers are no strangers to the excitement, inspiration and information to be gleaned from CELEBRATION. Over the past 6 years, large numbers of Louisiana VIM'ers and VIM'ers-to-be have attended the 30-40 workshops offered on VIM possibilities in various countries and US mission opportunities. Countries represented will be Bolivia, Ghana, Poland, Costa Rica, Israel, Russia, El Salvador, Macedonia, South Africa, Estonia, Mexico, the US and more.

Workshop leaders represent a wide range of leadership

# Celebration '98

roles: bishops, representatives from other countries, program directors, mission team leaders and missionaries. "How To's" for medical missions, Keenagers, Children, Local Church and "Telling the VIM Story" cover the nuts and bolts of the ministry of VIM.

Louisiana VIM is arranging for vans to travel to Oklahoma City for this exciting event. The cost for registration is \$45 per person for the two-day event. (Children and youth are somewhat less.) Registration brochures are available from the VIM office (888-239-5286). Lodging information for discount hotel rooms is included in the brochure; reservations to be made by the individual. Transportation fee for the Louisiana vans will be approximately \$25.

### Sharing Christ's Love...



### Hands Across the World...

Seasoned VIM'ers and those who want to know more about being a Volunteer in Mission and Making a Christian Difference in the world are encouraged to contact the VIM office for more information and registration.

### 'Young Leaders Making a Christian Difference' conference announced

Louisiana Volunteers in Mission and CCYM will sponsor a Youth Mission Leadership Conference, "Young Leaders Making A Christian Difference," November 22-25, at the Louisiana Conference Center. Youth who have a recognized leadership potential will be invited to participate in keynote addresses, simulation exercises, workshop options and mission work opportunities which help them recognize and develop skills and gifts for leadership in the area of mission. Each local church in Louisiana is asked to elect (through its Administrative Council or Board) two or more youth who have shown leadership potential and mission interest. The local church is asked to bear the cost of \$90 per representative (includes lodging, meals and registration fees) elected for the event.

In addition to mission inspiration by Bishop Dan E. Solomon, keynote speakers (including Rev. Jerry Hibun and Richard Bushnell) and workshop leaders will help youth leaders to develop a "Theology of Mission," know "What It Takes to Be a Leader," hone skills in situational decision making, recognize the differences in chronic and current-cause mission needs, cultural barriers, mission fund raising and much more. Afternoon recreation will offer mission work team experiences in the Woodworth area.

Local churches are asked to begin this selection process soon. Pastors and youth workers can obtain more information and a registration brochure by contacting Larry D. Norman, Louisiana VIM director or Carolyn Dove, Conference Youth Ministry director at (888) 239-5286 or (504) 346-1646.

## LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA VIM OFFICE  
1000 PINE STREET, SUITE 100  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70801  
(888) 239-5286  
(504) 346-1646  
FAX: (504) 346-1646  
WWW.LOUISIANA-VIM.ORG



Photo by Bobbie Armstrong

"Louisiana VIM wants you...to volunteer," says Director Larry Norman.





# Lake Charles District News



816 Kirkman Street  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
(318) 439-2982

## District Superintendent

J. Lawrence Maddin

## District Communication Advisors

Constance Handy

Susan Moore

## Uskichitto Retreat Center DID YOU KNOW?

Ready to get away and just have fun? Did you know the Uskichitto Retreat Center has dates available for your group or organization to use for picnics, bar-b-ques or other events?

The cost for the day is just \$2 per person; nights are \$8 per person; meals are an additional \$15. For non-United Methodist groups, add 10 percent..

Contact Sammie King, URC director, to make your reservations today!

P. O. Box 118

LeBlanc, LA 70651

(318) 738-5259

E-mail: [urc@ld.centuryinter.net](mailto:urc@ld.centuryinter.net)

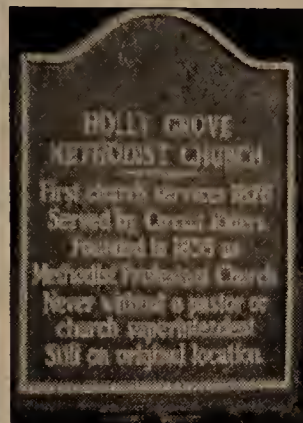
Visit our website at:

<http://gbgmchurches.gbgm-umc.org/uskichitto>



A camp counselor and camper enjoy canoeing on the lake at URC.

## Holly Grove UMC celebrates 163 years



The historic marker for Holly Grove UMC reads: "Holly Grove Methodist Church—first church services 1826. Served by Circuit Riders. Founded in 1835 as Methodist Protestant Church. Never without a pastor or church superintendent. Still on original location."

On Saturday, April 4, the congregation of Holly Grove UMC celebrated their 163rd anniversary. The church is the oldest United Methodist church west of the Mississippi River with a continuous pastor and Sunday school superintendent. The congregation still worships on the original location.

The celebration was held on the grounds of the church with about 30 vendor booths displaying various items from handmade crafts to retirement

plans.

More than 200 barbeque chicken lunches were sold. The day concluded with an evening of gospel singing. Bill Doyle, celebration coordinator, stated "next years plans are already in the works. It is expected to include more exhibits, crafts and activities for the children. This year's crowd was tremendous and everyone had a great day. The proceeds will go to local missions.

Rev. Ryan Horton is pastor.

## 'Passion of Last Supper' celebrated at Oakdale UMC

Holy week services began at Oakdale UMC with the celebration of Palm Sunday, and concluded with revival services on Easter Sunday.

Palm Sunday included the traditional children's processional. On Maunday Thursday, the men performed the Passion of the Last Supper, followed by Holy Communion.

The Easter sunrise service was written

and narrated by lay person, Minnie-Lou Lynch. This service was followed by a wonderful revival service led by Rev Hank Hamilton. Lee Cook, of Asbury UMC, Lafayette, directed the music. The church was very excited to have the Downsville UMC join them for a combined choir. It was a beautiful worship celebration.

Rev. Joe Hamilton is pastor.



"The Passion of the Last Supper" was performed on Maundy Thursday at Oakdale UMC.

## Put your church news here

How do you get your church news on the district page? It's simple. Send your articles and photos to Susan Moore and Constance Handy, your district communication advisors.

We're looking for faith stories, testimonies, what's working for your church, current happenings and upcoming events (please give us a cou-

ple of months notice).

This is your time to shine. Please take advantage of it and let us hear from you!

Send submissions to:  
Communication Advisors  
113 Pine Street  
Oakdale, LA 71463-2832

## Palm Sunday at FUMC helps needy

First UMC, Lake Charles, celebrated Palm Sunday in a grand way that also ministered to the less fortunate in their community.

During the two weeks before Palm Sunday, members were encouraged to clean out closets and to bring outgrown children's, women's and men's coats and jackets to the church to be used as part of their Palm Sunday processional. During the worship service, youth led a processional down the aisles of the worship center laying coats on the floor as people laid them in the streets of Jerusalem for Jesus on the first Palm Sunday. Children followed the youth waving palm branches and shaking tambourines. The coats were then placed beneath a Lenten tree at the front of the church and the palm branches were placed on the altar.

After the service, the coats and jackets were donated to the Women's Shelter and the Lord's Place where they will be distributed to those in need. The church had a more accurate celebration while helping the needy in the community.

## District Inclusivity Team offers 'powerful tool' for churches

Our district is blessed to be one of the first in the conference to have its Inclusivity Team in place so quickly. The mission of the DIT is to take the initiative to reach and include everyone by making and being disciples of Christ. The District Inclusivity Teams goal is to be inclusive of people of all colors, race, and creed and in all areas of life.

The DIT is designed to enable churches to maximize minority involvement, close the gaps, increase mission involvement and have an open itineracy. Economic attention is given to both the affluent and the poor and includes the handicapped. According to Rev. Curtiss Eden, former chair of the team, this is a powerful tool for our district.

The DIT is available to assess your congregation's specific needs. Please call the district office to schedule an evaluation.







## Bastrop UMC dedicates historical marker

by Judy McGuire

Chair, Archives and History Committee, First UMC, Bastrop

First UMC, Bastrop, held an Historical Site Marker Dedication Service, Sunday, June 14, at the 11 a.m. service at the church. Dr. Robert G. Sherer, chair of the Louisiana Conference Commission on Archives and History was there to make the presentation. Others participating in the service were Judy McGuire, local chair of the Archives and History Committee, Vera Lee Hedges and Rev. Eddie Morgan.

Bastrop First UMC was approved as a UM historical site at Annual Conference in June, 1997. To qualify, data and material must be furnished to show that a location or structure is specifically related to a significant event, development or personality in the history of the Annual, Central or Jurisdictional Conference of the UMC. Newspaper articles, a copy of the church's October 1856 charter and the December, 1859, property deed were some of the supporting data used when the Bastrop church applied. On receipt of this data and a registration fee, the General Commission of the United Methodist Archives and History in Madison, NJ, furnished the Bastrop church with an official numbered historic site marker, one of four in Louisiana.

The first Methodist meeting house in Bastrop was a log structure located on N. Washington St. In 1855, the Louisiana Annual Conference was scheduled to meet in Bastrop, which probably motivated the congregation to build a new church. A frame building was constructed on the corner of S. Washington and W. Hickory Sts., the site of the present church building. In 1862, during the Civil War, the Louisiana Annual Conference met again in Bastrop. Under the leadership of Rev. John T. Sawyer, a new building replaced the old frame church in 1884. In 1924, the Administrative Board decided to tear down the 40-year-old brick church and build a new one; this building is the present sanctuary of First UMC, Bastrop.



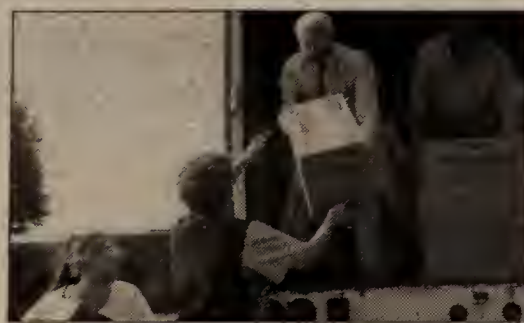
Members of the First UMC, Bastrop Archives and History Committee stand in front of the granite sign dedicated in June.

## Spirit of mission work born in MIM

by Marcelle Frost Crow  
District MIM Coordinator

What a great year for the UMC in the Louisiana Conference! Monroe District churches were totally committed to collecting paper products and Korean food boxes for the UMCOR Depot at the Sager-Brown facility in Baldwin. We learned new skills on gathering and taping boxes—without taping our hands—how to wrap pallets and, most of all, giving the glory to our most gracious Father.

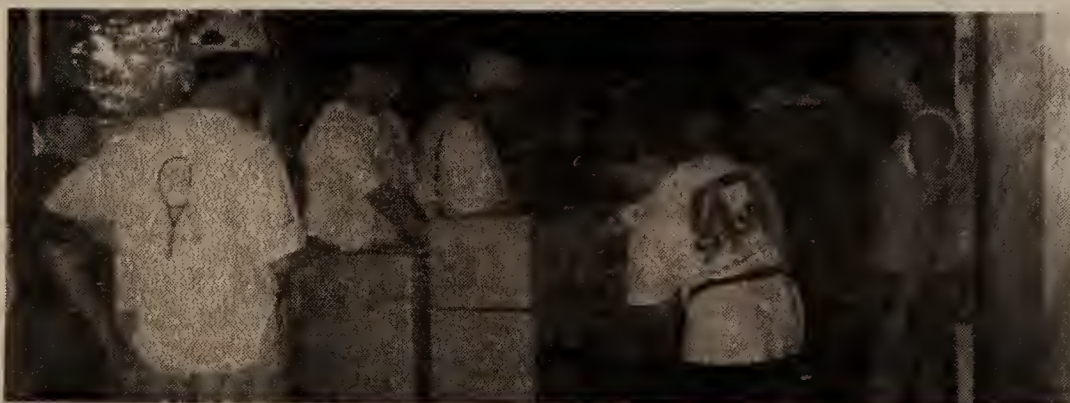
The Mission In Motion project really started for the Monroe District in March with a coordinators meeting. The turn out was unbelievable and the spirit of mission work was born. In April, Rev. Marie Williams and I did a TV spot, explaining MIM. We also worked on getting our local newspaper involved. The trailer arrived in May and made its way to the appointed



Loading the MIM truck.

churches in West Monroe, Monroe, Bastrop and then to Winnsboro.

We have learned the joy that comes with serving the Lord, not only with our money, but also with our hands. God calls us to love Him with all our hearts, minds and souls; let us as United Methodist Christians not let Him down. He depends on us to do His work. We in the Monroe District have been blessed!



## Lea Joyner youth unload MIM trailer at Sager-Brown

by Elaine Chapman

Sixteen youth from Lea Joyner UMC participated in unloading the MIM trailer (picture above) after it made the rounds in the Monroe District. Each summer, the youth of the church choose a mission trip and organize money making projects to pay for their trip. Their chosen project for this summer was to help unload the trailer when it reached the Sager-Brown facility in Baldwin, LA.

## Our Heritage ...

### Boeuf Prairie UMC — the 'White Swan Church'



An historical photo shows the "White Swan" sitting majestically in a rare white cover of snow.

Boeuf Prairie UMC, located in Fort Necessity, is the oldest church in Franklin Parish and the oldest Methodist Church building still in continuous use in Louisiana today.

Around it evolves the history of the community's religious development. People of several denominations used the church facilities until the population of the community was large enough to organize their own houses of worship. This tradition of Christian caring is still evident in the Fort Necessity area today.

Founded in 1833 under the leadership of the Rev. Uriah Whatley, the original building was begun in 1837. Still intact is

the hand-hewn cypress siding and square nails. However, in 1898, the old lattice and plaster walls were replaced with the beaded woodwork walls which now adorn the sanctuary.

For many years the church was known as the "White Swan Church," a name given it in the 1800's because it was said to resemble a great white swan among the trees. Many old timers in Franklin Parish still refer to it as "White Swan."

Today, many people who live along the waters of the Boeuf River up to Big Creek cherish the old church and speak with pride of the elegant heritage it has bestowed upon the area.

# Monroe District News



909 North 18th. Street, Suite 206  
Monroe, LA 71201  
(318) 387-7364

### District Superintendent

Rev. Marie Williams

### Communication Advisor

Betty Martin

## Jesus is always there

...a testimony of faith

(Matthew 7:7-11)

by Mary Frances Richardson

First UMC, Winnsboro

I remember when I had the measles. I was quite small, so I don't recall too much about the sickness itself, other than I was supposed to stay under the covers. What I really remember is all that special attention that I received. I probably could have had just about anything that I asked for. I was staying with my Aunt Lula at the time. She spent the biggest part of her day sitting with me and trying to see that I was content and had everything I needed. She would cut strings and strings of paper dolls from brown paper. She would make snowballs out of crushed ice. She read to me.

I don't know how she got any of her chores done. Back then, a typical work-day involved such things as milking twice a day and churning. But she put my well-being and my needs first. So it is with our Heavenly Father. He loves us just that much, too. We are His first priority. He will do the same for you and me. He will see to our very need. All we need to do is just ask.

There are many times in life when we do have set-backs, when everything seems to go wrong. Love can change all that. God will see us through, because we are His children, and He is a loving, forgiving and caring God.

PRAYER: Thank you, Lord, for your love; help us to show others that love in all the things we say and do. AMEN.





# New Orleans District News



3401 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119  
(504) 488-5430

## District Superintendent

Rev. Freddie Henderson

## District Communication Advisor

Dian Kent

## New Orleans District Ministry Team

### District Superintendent

Rev. Freddie Henderson

### District Missioner

Barbara Murray

### Lay Leader

Germaine Peters

### Education Ministries Leader

Carol Sherer

### Outreach Ministries Leader

Rev. Joe Connelly

### Renewal Ministries Leader

Rev. Arnold Roberts

### Meditative Ministries Leader

Dr. Keith Kreutziger

### Communication Advisor

Dian Kent

### Youth Coordinator

Dolores Giles

### Youth Representative

Jonathan Hammett

### Board of Church Location Rep

Amy Ward

### Committee on Finance Rep

Stephenae Carey

### Values Team Rep

Rev. Russell Jones

### At Large Members

Joe Burke

Dr. Larry Bates

June Sanchez

Wallace Smith

## Let us tell your story ...

Let us tell your story. If you have a story to tell about your church or your members, please contact the New Orleans District Communication Advisor, Dian Kent at (504) 368-2567. You may also contact the New Orleans District Office at (504) 488-5430. Please mail information to:

Dian Kent

837 Sumner Street

New Orleans, LA

## From our NEW district superintendent

Freddie C. Henderson

For the past few months, the operative word for me has been TRANSITION. It seems to me that it has been everywhere. It comes up in conversations, in print, on TV commercials, even on billboards. Perhaps the fact that for the past 26 years, I have been in ministry from a Baton Rouge base and have not experienced itinerant status helps to make this a special concept for me. Yes, I have had appointment changes, but the M\_\_\_\_\_ word had not been a factor. Now I understand better what itinerant really means.

Getting accustomed to parsonage life at this late stage of my ministry is still another transition. Through all of the things that have been different, it so happens that this is the way that life goes, actually. Transition, changes, new opportunities and challenges, they are happening all the time. And so, while this all seems like a new entity, it really is not because we live with changes all the time.

Given that fact, I take this opportunity to

thank all of my family, colleagues, friends and neighbors who have done so much to make the transition into this part of my ministry journey. The Service of Welcome and Affirmation at First Church, New Orleans on July 25 was very warm (no pun intended given the heat index). I cite the challenge by Bishop Solomon for us to become part of the "Company of the Awed," as he preached from the Psalm 145:4 text.

I pledge to do what I can to help make a difference in "the world...our parish." In the midst of homelessness, violence in the home and in our schools; health care issues for the elderly and children, a need for heightened evangelism to the unchurched and the inactive members of our churches. We have a lot of ministry to do! I will not re-do the long list of issues that are before us, friends, but believe me, they will not just simply "go away." As we band our Prayer Power with our energy and mission initiatives, we can and will make a

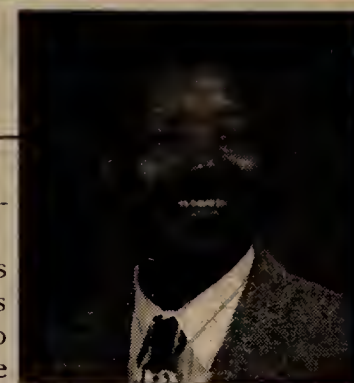
Christian difference.

God does not call us as disciples to become superstars nor sensations. God does call us to be faithful and to be servants to "the least among us." I have every confidence that, while we cannot do everything at one time, we must do what we can while we can.

Again, I pledge to do what I can to help make a difference in the lives of the marginalized, the poor, the "at risk" children and youth, indeed, all of the children of God. I call on you – the Disciples of our Lord – to demonstrate your Servanthood Quotient! As appreciative and energized Kingdom Builders, can Christ count on you to do your share?

I pray God's Blessings on each of you as we serve those who are "the least among" us.

Shalom!



## Around the New Orleans District

The New Orleans District Ministry Team has embarked upon its mission of reaching one church at a time to listen to and learn the needs and concerns of its churches. Here is a small glimpse of what the team has heard through face-to-face meetings with individual churches and through initial telephone contacts by District Missioner Barbara Murray. With a district consisting of 57 churches, we have a lot to tell.

**ST. CHARLES UMC** (Rev. Mark R. Martin) recently sent five youths—Matt Serio, Keith Hazeltine, Emil Albrecht, Matt Martin and Richard Rogers—and three adult counselors—Alisa House, Cindy Serio and Earl Rogers—on a mission trip to San Marcos, Tex. Along with youth from Bayou Blue UMC (Acadiana District), they worked with a mission project to help repair and build homes for under-privileged families.

St. Charles also has a five-member delegation planning a trip to Cuba Sept. 20-30. The delegation plans to develop a sister-church relationship with Park Temple Methodist Church in Jovellanos, Cuba. While there, they plan to visit house churches. They also will take medical supplies, Christian educational materials and letters from family-to-family who have built relationships over the past three years.

**GREYNA UMC** (Rev. Lewis L. Olmsted) implemented a year ago a Sunday evening Contemporary Worship Service that starts at 6:30 p.m. This service was originally started to reach the unchurched; however, it has grown and is attended by a cross section of ages.

**CARROLLTON UMC** (Rev. Jeff Conner) recently dedicated a new sign for the church to attract more attention from passing streetcars and automobiles. After the regular service, everyone went outside for



**Carrollton UMC dedicated a new sign designed to attract streetcar and auto passersby.**

the dedication led by Rev. Jeff Conner. Rev. Conner played guitar as the congregation sang "The Family of God" which talks about the desire of the family of God to expand to include new members. The new sign was the brainchild of the Wesley Church School Class. They felt it was necessary because Carrollton UMC also shares its facilities with the Orleans Presbyterian Church.

**TRINITY UMC** (Rev. Gene M. Faurie) had a desire to involve more men in its Vacation Bible School this year. To do so, it was held on a Saturday. With the assistance of the men, third through sixth graders built and painted bird houses. To ensure that their community children would be able to attend, Trinity worked with other churches in the community to coordinate schedules that would not conflict.

Last year, Trinity lost a member who was a police officer. Realizing the seriousness of wearing a bullet-proof vest, the congregation purchased a vest and donated it for use by an officer who could not afford to purchase one. Trinity has also challenged other

churches in the area to do the same.

**THOMPSON UMC** (Rev. William L. Jones) has a Creative Art Program which has 18 students enrolled. The kids have been involved in arts and crafts projects which include making collages, masks, stained glass window pictures, *papier mache*, paper dolls, paper flowers, paper plate clocks and paper bag puppets as well as drawing, painting, and water coloring. The Creative Art Program is one of the Church's Shalom Missions in the community and urban ministries. Rene Pierre serves as artist and teacher.

Thompson UMC also operates a tutorial program after school from 4-6 p.m. to assist neighborhood children with homework and problem areas for kids at risk. As a result of the program, four students have joined Thompson UMC and are now taking an active part in the service. Carolyn F. Young serves as coordinator with Elmida F. Coleman and Wilma Adams serving as volunteers.



**The Thompson UMC Creative Arts Program has 18 students involved in colorful and creative arts and crafts projects.**

Stay tuned. The next New Orleans District page will feature more churches "around the New Orleans District."



## A Woman's View from the Pew

by Cee Cee Ross

Being the wife of the pastor has a different meaning now that I am one. I have been in the company of many a minister's wife and watched them wear broad smiles while their feet were throbbing from the last person who clamped down on their toes or recovering from one of those breathtaking hugs. I have seen them sit silently in the rear of a room, wanting so badly to be able to make a profound statement, only to be silently hushed by "that look" from her husband. I have seen them become gracious hostesses in the parsonage or at the sanctuary door. They are young, old, short, tall, thick and thin. They are learned and bold as well as secure and meek. They have become the ears to many cries and complaints and the carrier of the greatest good news. They are expected to always be on their toes and as Tammy Wynette instructs, ready to, "Stand By Your Man."

From the pew comes the wife's perspective. The man the congregation hears preaching his heart out, is the same one she broke bread with at breakfast, while scanning the newspaper. This same man puts in more hours than the clock can tick, and his brain is forever thinking of another thing he has to do at the church. She watches the faces of the congregation as they listen for the scriptures to come to life before their very eyes. She takes note of the yawners, the sleepers, the enthusiastic and the elated. Yet, this she keeps in the safety deposit box of her heart, relaying it only as a suggestion of improvement or repeat delivery. The flow of the worship becomes the emphasis of her existence. She too, watches the clock and takes note of the "antsy" members who are ready to leave or to hear more. "Did the songs match?" "Was the communion bread fresh?" "Did the visitors sign in and did you shake hands with them?" Then comes the ultimate question: "How was the sermon and was it too long?" She holds this closely and weighs it gingerly, as her perspective has to be one of a member of the congregation and not the spouse.

Almost daily, the pastor brings home stress and concerns from the church. A good preacher's wife becomes a virtual miracle worker by keeping the stress of the home under wraps until the last possible moment. This magnanimous task is not a simple one to maneuver. Within a few moments of arriving home, she notices him slumping into his favorite chair. As she mentally dares the phone to ring . . . it does. She jumps to answer it on the first ring, praying that his sleep was not stirred . . . it was. She speaks quietly to the caller informing them that the pastor is, "not available at the moment." She takes the most detailed message, as she has become a proficient

secretary among other newly acquired talents. Again she prays that he does not awaken . . . he does. She hurriedly tells the caller that he will get back to them as soon as possible, hoping that he does not hear her . . . he does. Hearing this, he rises from an up-and-coming nap, looks at the message, and ponders if he should call now . . . he does.

I recall Robert's stress attack. We were at Baton Rouge General Medical Center's emergency room and his pager went off. I immediately grabbed it from his pants and checked the number. Neither of us recognized it, and he asked whom it might be. I was insistent that he was the reason for the concern right now and that he should not worry about the call. Besides, if it were urgent, they would call back. Within fifteen minutes, the call was duplicated. I rose to make the call for him to see who was calling or what was the urgency, not to mention, put him at ease. When the party answered, they informed me that the mother of one of the members of Evangeline UMC had passed and they wanted to notify Robert of the news. I cannot begin to describe the emotional roller coaster that flooded my soul. With bated breath and a labored swagger, I returned to the examination room to give him the message. As sure as the sun rises in the morning, Robert rose from the examination bed and began reaching for his pants and shirt. I was frantic! "Where do you think you're going?!" I said, trying to keep my voice as calm as possible. "Baby, I've got to go and see about my people." Well, to say the least, there was about to be another emergency in the emergency room! At that very moment, the doctor came in and gave Robert the all-clear sign and told him to go home and rest for the remainder of the day. No phone. No visitors. No work. No nothing. Robert told the doctor of the phone call and the doctor told him to tell me what to say to the family until he could deal with the situation tomorrow.

We arrived at home and I put him to bed. I prepared dinner and brought it to him in bed, only to find him on the phone talking to bereaved family. He hung up and looked at me with those big brown eyes and said, "They're my people now, Baby. I have to take care of them." From that point on, I have given up the fight of trying to keep him from the church past business hours and from "his people."

Now, when I am not on the road, I sit on the pew or in the choir stand and watch this man sent by God to be my husband, but more so, called by God to be the leader of "his people."

Pray for us as we continue to pray for you.

*Cee Cee Ross is the wife of Rev. Robert Ross is pastor of Evangeline UMC, Baton Rouge.*

*From the Evangeline UMC "Soldier's Voice"*

## Connected Through 'A Portion Meant' for Others By the love of God

by Spencer Bell

Louisiana Tech Wesley Foundation  
Campus Ministry, Ruston, La.

When I first learned that the Louisiana Tech Wesley Foundation, of which I am a very active member, was planning a mission trip to Haiti for the first week and a half of the 1998 summer break, I eagerly signed up to go.

I had been on mission trips to Jamaica the previous two summers with my youth group, so I knew first hand about foreign missions. They can—and will—change the lives of not only the people receiving the help, but also the missionaries. My trips, especially the one to Haiti surely did change this missionary.

Those of us living in the United States have grown accustomed to our many luxuries: television, automobiles, telephones. What the trip to Haiti taught me was that this list of luxuries also includes food, clothing and shelter. Seeing such immense poverty in Haiti truly blew my mind; these people have almost nothing! But the people there act in surprising ways. They all seem to have joy. How on earth could I be hun-



Spencer Bell

gry and happy? By the love of God. By putting 100 percent trust in God that He will provide.

God worked miracles on this trip. He provided in so many ways. Through our many fund raisers, we were able to collect enough money to go on this trip and to make a donation to the Haitian pastor we stayed with to help him with his ministries. We encountered so many obstacles before and during this trip, but God was there to help us through. And God provided a wonderful group of missionaries from the Wesley Foundation.

If I had not been involved with the Louisiana Tech Wesley Foundation, if I had never stepped through its doors even once, none of this would have happened. I have discovered so many outreach ministries through Wesley—I am so thankful God has given me the opportunity to be a part of some of them.

The Louisiana Tech Wesley Foundation has touched me and helped me to expand my faith in ways that words cannot describe.

Lord, continue to work in the lives of others as You have worked in mine.

## Lay speaking celebration event to honor 50 years of ministry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — The pastor has been called away from the pulpit and someone is needed to lead the worship service or to preach.

Who do you call? The lay speaker.

A lay speaker is a member of the congregation who has completed required courses and has been approved by a district or annual conference committee to conduct worship services, preach and lead study sessions as requested by the pastor or district superintendent.

Lay speaking ministry has existed in the United Methodist Church for 50 years, but its origins date back to the very beginnings of the church. The office of exhorter, a predecessor term for lay speaker, was recognized in the 1784 Book of Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The office known as lay speaker was first recognized in the 1948 Book of Discipline.

The 50th anniversary of that ministry will be celebrated by lay speaking groups Aug. 21-23 in an event called "Celebration of Laity in the Wesleyan Tradition" at St. Simons Island, Ga. The celebration is open to lay speakers from all over the United States.

Lay speaking is a comprehensive developmental program for laity that

helps people identify their calls to ministry and develop skills in caring, leading and communicating ministries, according to Tim Moss, the director of laity leadership for the United Methodist Board of Discipleship in Nashville, Tenn. "The lay speaking ministry is often the turning point for lay people who are seeking to offer significant service to both church and community."

Leaders for the celebration event include Moss; Dick Strachan, director of lay speaking for the Western North Carolina Conference; Charles Killian, professor of preaching and dramatic ministry, Asbury Seminary, Wilmore, Ky.; S.T. Kimbrough, associate general secretary for mission evangelism, United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, New York; Marion Conner Price, laywoman from Jacksonville, Fla.; and Danny Morris, Upper Room staff member.

For information about the event, contact Moss by e-mail, at [tmoss@gbod.org](mailto:tmoss@gbod.org), or by phone, (615) 340-7179; or contact Judy Segars by e-mail, at [captainDJS@msn.com](mailto:captainDJS@msn.com), or at 3539 Edgewood Circle, Gainesville, GA 30506.





# AROUND THE CONFERENCE NEWS

## 'Moving On Up' retreat to renew workers with youth

*Shape me, Lord, as I am renewed.*

A Spiritual Renewal Retreat for Adult Workers With Youth will be held Aug. 21-23 at the Conference Center in Woodworth. The retreat, entitled "Moving On Up With the Lord As My Guide," will begin at 8 p.m. Friday and conclude at 1 p.m. Sunday.

You are invited to come with a receptive heart and leave renewed in your faith. We will worship together, pray together, play together, share together, be in silence, be immersed in the word, and be given the opportunity to spend time with our Lord.



Rev. Freddie Henderson, New Orleans District superintendent, will facilitate and Scott Sontag of Louisiana College will be the music leader for the event.

The cost is \$70 per person with two in a room. This covers five meals, two nights lodging, snacks and program cost. If you would like to room by yourself the cost will be \$100.

Please contact Carolyn Dove at 527 North Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802 or (888) 239-5286 for a registration form or scholarship information.

## Louisiana Conference Edition of the United Methodist Review

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Dr. Rena Yocom, Director,  
Gospel Communications  
Bobbie Armstrong, Editor  
Dr. Alonzo Campbell

Subscriptions: \$12.50 per year

Send subscriptions, news and information to:

Editor

527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
1 (888) 239-5286  
(225) 346-1646, (225) 383-2652 fax  
e-mail: laumc@premier.net

### On the Web

You can find the Louisiana Annual Conference on the Internet at

<http://www.gbmg-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>

### DEADLINE FOR:

August 21 Issue--August 10

## 'Here I am, Lord.'



Missionary Dorothea Brown helps upper-elementary kids decorate a freshly painted footbridge during camp at Uskichitto Retreat Center July 20-24. The theme for the camp was "Here I am, Lord."

## GBGM staff to visit Louisiana Conference

During the week of Aug. 23-29, two staff members from the UM General Board of Global Ministries will be visiting the Louisiana Conference. Cathy Fulwood, executive secretary, Loan Administration, and Lynda Byrd, director, Shalom Communities, will be visiting various churches around the conference and also conducting information sessions.

On Monday, Aug. 24, at the Conference Office in Baton Rouge from

10 a.m.-3 p.m. there will be a GBGM Church Building Information Session for pastors and lay leaders of churches in need of repairs, loans or grants. On Thursday night at 6 there will be an ecumenical Shalom Consultation at the Mission Center in Baton Rouge.

Details are still in process. Please contact Dr. Alonzo Campbell at (504) 225-664-7979 if you would like to meet with Fulwood or Byrd.

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Beginning Aug. 17, the area code for Baton Rouge will change to "225." The Conference Office telephone number will be (225) 346-1646. The toll-free number will remain (888) 239-5286.

Please make a note of this change.

## Register now!

## DISCIPLE Training in Baton Rouge Aug. 27-29

"DISCIPLE: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study" is a dynamic approach to Bible study. During the 34-week course, DISCIPLE groups (twelve people plus a leader) move through the scriptures from Genesis to Revelation. The scripture for each session follows the chronological movement of the biblical story. Each week, a major theme helps the groups grow in understanding of the Bible.

DISCIPLE is designed to develop strong Christian leaders in local churches through the in-depth study of scripture. Through DISCIPLE, participants will be strengthened in their faith and guided into service and ministry. Strong, biblically nourished leadership will help your church grow in vitality and Christian discipleship.

### How do I enroll my church?

The first step in registering for the training to be held at the Radisson Hotel in Baton Rouge Aug. 27-29 is to call: 1-800-672-1789. You must register with this number at the Nashville, TN office first!

It is NOT necessary to make your

hotel reservations. This is included in your registration & will be taken care of by the Nashville office.

Fees for the event are as follows: For the first person from a church, the initial fee is \$650. This includes: two nights lodging, scheduled meals and training, 13 study manuals, one "Teacher Helps," one "Teaching the Bible to Adults and Youth," one set of videotapes, one implementation resource, 13 certificates and 13 lapel pins.

Once your church is enrolled in DISCIPLE, you may send additional persons to be trained as leaders for only \$250 each. This fee includes: one study manual, one "Teacher Helps," one "Teaching the Bible to Adults and Youth," one implementation resource, one certificate, one lapel pin, two nights lodging, scheduled meals and training.

For further information or scholarship help (available on a first-come, first-served basis) please write or call: Shirlene Spears, 527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5700 (504) 346-1646, ext. 228 or (888) 239-5286.

## Methodist Home Golf Classic tees off in Sept.

Looking for a a great way to have fun and help kids in need at the same time? Here's a suggestion. The annual Methodist Home Golf Classic will be held on Monday, Sept. 21 at Eastover Country Club in New Orleans. The entry fee is \$100 per golfer which includes greens and cart fees, food and beverages and a generous donation to The Methodist Home for Children in New Orleans, a UM institution for abused, abandoned and neglected children.



Sponsorship level donations are available as well. The Methodist Home Classic was started in 1979 and has served the Home generously over the years. In 1997, proceeds exceeded \$25,000.

Tee times are available on a first-come registration basis beginning at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. For further information, please contact Munholland United Methodist Church at (504) 834-9910 or Jerry White, chair of the Tournament Committee, at (504) 835-5031. If you can't attend, send your donations to P.O. Box 9388, Metairie, LA 70055.

## CONFERENCE Program Calendar

### August

- 10-16 OIMC VIM Mission Trip
- 12 Disaster Response Meeting, Baton Rouge
- 16-22 VIM Mission Trip, Paoli, OK
- 21-23 Adult Workers with Youth, Spiritual Renewal, Conference Center
- 23 Christian Education Sunday
- 27-29 DISCIPLE Bible Study Training, Baton Rouge

### September

- 11-20 VIM, Bolivia (Medical)
- 12 North Louisiana Summit, "Children in Need," Trinity UMC, Ruston, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 12 Uskichitto Board of Directors Meeting, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 15 Conference Worship Team, Conference Center
- 17 UMW Executive Committee
- 18-19 UMW Conference Annual Meeting, Trinity UMC, Ruston
- 18-20 The Academy, Conference Center
- 22-23 Cabinet Meeting, Baton Rouge
- 24-27 Cursillo #67, Conference Center
- 26 Youth Fall Convocation, Conference Center





# Louisiana

## CONFERENCE

### edition

Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
504.346.1646  
/504.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

018000

Send PS Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

Vol 15 No 18 ■ August 21, 1998

## North Louisiana Summit on Children in Need

### Gathering to help Louisiana churches 'leave with a plan'

On Saturday, Sept. 12, Louisiana Conference churches will have a unique opportunity to learn how to set up a missional outreach program for children in need.

"Our goal is for everyone who attends this seminar to leave here with an action plan for their church to reach out to its community, especially families and children," says Rev. Fred Wideman, pastor of Trinity UMC in Ruston, the church where the North Louisiana Summit on Children in Need will be held from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Inspirational speaker Ron Anderson, director of the Volunteers of America Lighthouse in Shreveport, will be the

keynote speaker for the summit. Anderson, who has headed up the outreach programs at the Lighthouse for nine years, will talk about the value of community service and the need for

school programs as well as parenting and job-readiness training for adults.

The summit will focus on many issues and areas that affect disadvantaged and hurting children in today's world. Nine workshops will offer know-how on helping young people in their home churches and communities. Resources and ideas from experts will help churches form a plan to tackle the challenges affecting youth and families in their communities.

Each workshop will be conducted twice during the day, so each attendee can participate in two. Topics scheduled to be covered include after-school care, child care, chemical addiction, emotional

and physical abuse, gang awareness and conflict resolution. Parenting skills, disabilities and Early Christian Awareness are also among workshop topics.

Whether you live in North Louisiana or South Louisiana, anyone interested in learning how to make a difference in a child's life is encouraged to attend. There is no charge for this summit, which includes lunch. Call Trinity UMC at (318) 251-0750 for registration details.



Ron Anderson

| North Louisiana Summit Workshops                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Families Dealing with Abuse</b><br>CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)<br>After School Care<br>Special Needs Children<br>Gang Awareness | <b>Every Touch Counts</b><br>(Parenting Skills)<br>Conflict Resolution<br>Early Christian Awareness<br>Quality Infant and Child Care |

community involvement in social issues. He should know. His organization helps some 500 people a week in the poverty-stricken areas of Shreveport. Its programs include pre-school and after-

## Memoirs from Africa: Ivory Park shines a light in the darkness

In July, the six-member Louisiana Conference Tennis Shoe Delivery Team visited Angola to place on the feet of children in Africa tennis shoes collected at the Annual Conference Special Session on Children in Need last October. Over the next several issues, the **LUM Review** will feature each team member's account of the trip.

Before entering Angola, the team spent a few days visiting UM facilities in South Africa. This is Joy Solomon's treasured memory of that visit.

by Joy Solomon

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:5

We left the outskirts of Johannesburg, South Africa and drove down dirt ruts masquerading as a road. We drew near a squatters settlement of shacks made of tin, cardboard or other wood; one spigot of water for all; no sewage system at all. Poverty is prevalent and thoughts of despair crossed my mind. What could anyone do that would possibly make a difference?

There is one stable structure in the settlement—it is the Methodist Church. The pastor has a deep conviction that he was called to this place to help his people have hope and courage. He came out to greet us with a smile and an attitude of love and joy. He knows that he is there to help the people become disciples of Jesus Christ and to help them develop

possibilities for their lives.

We entered the church to see a group of about 12 people involved in their new industry—making candles and candle holders. They are very simply designed, but much pride goes into creating them. The artisans were cheerful and busy. This is one industry that the pastor had encouraged



Joy Solomon stands with a proud Ivory Park artisan who holds the candle and holder she created.

them to develop. Their way of life seems to be "put your talents to work and help our community of faith." You actually could not separate the community of faith from the community itself.

Our group bought candles and holders, and the creators were so proud because their identification mark is on the bottom of the holder. It is clear their choice to make candles is a choice to make a difference in the darkness. Their efforts are making a difference amidst the squalor and hopelessness of Ivory Park. The pastor has the inspired understanding that these wonderful people are his flock. These are people of God who are living their lives the best they can; raising babies, experiencing the full gamut of emotions, blessing and encouraging one another to be Christian where they are.

After all, isn't that what Jesus Christ

requires of all of us? We are to be the light that shines in the darkness and does not let the darkness overcome it.

Ivory Park is thousands of miles from our homes in so many ways, and yet I will never be able to erase the memories of beautiful and loving people and a pastor that gives with his whole heart. Ivory Park is just a faint light now, but those of us who witnessed its spirit know that the darkness will never overcome that light.

## INSIDE

- 2 To Receive the Stranger
- 3 Resources
- 4 North Shore District News
- 5 Ruston District News
- 6 Shreveport District News
- 8 Camp Cool Breeze





Dr. Rena Yocom

## Being and Doing

### 'To Receive the Stranger'



**Editors Note:** Bishop Dan Solomon has invited key staff leaders in the Louisiana Conference to be guest columnists for "Being and Doing" for the next few issues.

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." Matthew 25:35

I can almost see the scene. The United Methodists from Louisiana are standing there, and the Lord says, "Blessed are you for I was a stranger and you welcomed me." And many of you responded "When was that, Lord?" He replies, "Remember when I sent my servant, Rena. You welcomed her, took her into your homes and your hearts, and if you've done it for the least..."

I have been blessed with such a gracious reception here, I began remembering other times and places and understanding why hospitality is an important matter.

I remember being at a prayer vigil with Christians from Russia at the time of the first Reagan-Gorbechev Summit. Times were very tense. There were protesters and press everywhere. There were no more rooms at the hotel so two of us from the United States were in an Orthodox Retreat Center. I spoke no Russian. No one in the dining room spoke English. I smiled and said "Good morning." I got a "nod" and we left for the cathedral in silence.

The next morning, I repeated the ritual. To my surprise, one of the Russian men stood, put his hand almost to my face, and said "NO!" He quickly took my napkin, reached into his pocket, pulled out a pen and wrote "Dobra utra." After my heart started beating again, I learned to say "Dobra utra," which means "good morning" in Russian. It was a small thing, but I am convinced, God gave me that "teacher" so that our mutual prayers for peace could build community on earth.

I remember being in the Kwa Zulu in southern Africa. While visiting a school in the mountains, one of the teen-age girls asked if she could "feel my skin." While my embarrassed host translated, she explained that she had never seen a "white" person before and naturally wondered whether it "felt" as different as it looked.

I remember being thronged by young children at a refugee camp for unaccompanied children, children that were orphaned or lost in the midst of civil war. They longed for a touch, smile or kind word from anyone. I can still hear the giggles as my colleague and I joined in their circle to sing "Frere Jacques."

I remember going to an annual conference consultation as a general agency staffer from New York. One

person directed his intense anger toward me. He concluded, "You bureaucrats from New York don't know anything about the local church." (That really mystified me, because I had worked in the local church for 25 years and had only been in New York for six months.) His fear and anger had led him to make assumptions about who I was and how I would act, although he had never met me personally.

Much has been written in recent years about xenophobia, fear of the stranger or foreigner. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, many cities that had been "closed" were opened. From our North American perspective, we assumed all of the residents of those cities would want to travel, have visitors from other parts of the world, and take advantage of these newfound freedoms. It was not so. The "experts" then told us they suffered from xenophobia.

However, we find the same trait everywhere. My nephew served as a US-2 (a missionary for two years in the United States). He worked in the inner city of Philadelphia. He is now working as a youth minister in an affluent church in a nearby state. He recently told me how puzzled he was that the street people in the urban setting were more open to others than some of the members of the church where he is now. "And what's more," he gasped, "the street people weren't even Christian."

Yes, even here in the United States we fear those whom we consider to be different than ourselves. Perhaps this is a universal fear. Perhaps that is why there are so many passages in the Bible about hospitality. God asks us to practice "philo-xenia" or "xeno-docheo." These are the Greek words behind verses like Hebrews 13:2 and Matthew 25:35 which mean "to love the stranger" and "to receive the stranger." They are the opposites of xenophobia.

How grateful I am that you in Louisiana have chosen to welcome me into your midst! How grateful I am that God has given us his word to encourage us and you have given me the example to extend that same hospitality to all God's children.

*Rena M. Yocom*

Dr. Rena M. Yocom  
Area Director of Gospel  
Communications

## Meet the Foundation's new Director of Development

Rob Fairly recently joined the staff of the United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana. Rob will be serving as the Foundation's Director of Development and will be traveling throughout the state assisting local churches with the development of their endowment programs. Rob is available to help you and your church by conducting a seminar on estate planning or consulting with your endowment committee. He would love to hear from you. Here's more about Rob:

### Tell us about your professional background:

After receiving an undergraduate and master's degree in business administration, I spent the first 13 years of my business life in Mississippi and Tennessee in the securities industry working with individual investors. In 1989, we moved to Tampa, Fla., where I managed the business of a real estate entrepreneur. Our portfolio included apartment complexes, single family homes, strip centers, commercial buildings, motels and beach front hotels. After moving to Baton Rouge two years ago, I became a regional manager for a real estate corporation which owned 26 apartment complexes in 11 states, seven here in Louisiana.

### What about your family?

Although raised and educated in Texas, my roots are in Louisiana. My Mom grew up in Baton Rouge and my Dad in Tallulah; both went to LSU. They were married 50 years ago this December at First UMC, Baton Rouge, and retired here in 1994. My great-great grandfather and one of my cousins were Methodist ministers in this conference.

My wife, Pam, and I just celebrated our 21st anniversary on August 20. My oldest daughter, Jennifer, will be a freshman at LSU this fall studying Veterinary Medicine. Our second daughter, Susannah, will be a junior at Parkview Baptist High School this year. Tripp is our youngest at 13 and attends Brighton Academy here in Baton Rouge.

### What led you to this position?

I have always wanted my involvement in the church to go beyond simply showing up on Sunday mornings and sending in my pledge. I have tried to



Rob Fairly

meet this desire by participating in local church activities, district and conference committees and being on the board of a United Methodist Children's Center in Mississippi.

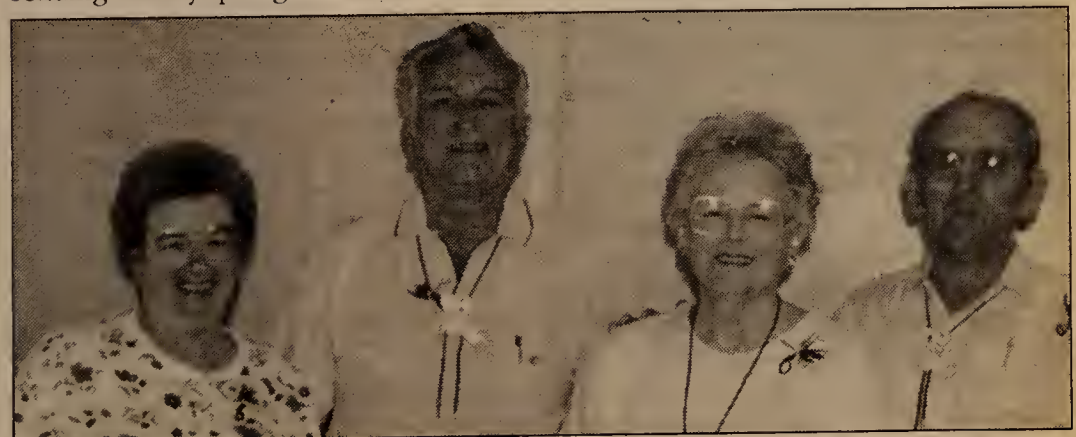
Shortly after joining First UMC in Baton Rouge, I asked Rev. Chris Andrews how I could do more for the church. It took him a couple of years to come up with a good suggestion, but he was the one who told me about the Foundation opening. It was definitely worth the wait.

### What would you like to accomplish in this position?

I want to help everyone come to know how EASY it is to help their church or favorite charitable institution. This is not an exclusive club for the wealthy. With a little advance planning, everyday ordinary people can make a BIG difference in their community and church. As we all know, a difference in those areas can change the world.

### What have you discovered about the Foundation that has most surprised you?

Our foundation is one of the strongest in the country. We gave over half-a-million dollars to United Methodist causes last year. We manage over \$70 million for local churches, institutions, and individuals who have made gifts to assure the continuance of worthwhile causes. Imagine--all that, right here in Louisiana. I'm excited to be a part of it!



**OFFICERS ELECTED**--The National Camping Methodists held their annual rally in July and elected new officers. National officers from Louisiana include: (left to right) Betty Tripp (Lafayette), secretary; Rev. Henry Bowden (Lake Charles), chaplain; Johnette Ney (Moss Bluff), president; and Bob Ney (Moss Bluff), director. Louisiana will host next year's National Rally when it is held in Rayne. Anyone interested in camping is invited to join the Louisiana group. Louisiana officers are Dale Brummett (DeQuincy), president; Ray Hudson (Sulpher), wagon master; and Ruth Brown (Jennings), chaplain. Contact Betty Tripp at (318) 232-2026 for more information.





# A Church for All God's Children

## Resources for Children

### Choosing Bibles for 3rd Graders

What Bible should you buy to give to your third graders? Jack Keller, editor of the *New Interpreter's Bible* and director of Bible and Study Resources at The United Methodist Publishing House, recommends some choices for consideration. (Dr. Keller also is the father of Julianna and Joshua, a third grader who received his own Bible last fall.)

#### Cokesbury Gift Bible

- \*includes full NRSV text
- \*46 pages of study helps
- \*32-page dictionary/concordance
- \*durable leatherflex cover (suitable for children, youth, or adults)

\*BR 7-277236 (Burgundy) \$10.95

Also available in blue and black

#### Cokesbury Children's Bible

- \*includes full NRSV text
- \*46 pages of study helps
- \*32-page dictionary/concordance
- \*16 pages of colorful Bible helps designed for children
- \*hardcover, designed for children

#### Zondervan Gift Bible

- \*includes full NIV text
- \*32 pages of study helps
- \*24-page dictionary/concordance
- \*leather-look binding (suitable for children, youth, or adults)

\*BR 7-232477 (Burgundy) \$16.99

Also available in blue and black

#### The New Adventure Bible

- \*includes full NIV text
- \*15 color charts & 8 full-color maps
- \*study helps scattered throughout
- \*28-page dictionary/concordance
- \*cover and interior graphics designed for 8-12 year olds

\*Paperback BR 7-778800 \$19.99

Hardcover BR 7-778866 \$24.99

These Bibles can be ordered through Cokesbury by calling 1-800-672-1289.

Adapted from *Leader*, Spring 1998.

More than a new "church program," the Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty is calling The United Methodist Church to reshape its very life to respond to the crisis among children and the impoverished.

Congregations that want to take seriously this call may obtain a packet of resources (checklist, guidelines, resource list and reporting form) from the

District Office. As congregations become more inviting and nurturing places for children, they have heeded the call of Christ, who said, "Let the little ones come to me." What congregation wouldn't like to be designated "A Church for All God's Children?"

Looking for more information on Children and Poverty or The Bishops' Initiative? Check the Internet at: URL: [www.umc.org/bishops/resources.html](http://www.umc.org/bishops/resources.html)

## Videos, books to strengthen ministry to children

### VIDEOS

Churches all across Louisiana are beginning to catch the fever — "children's fever." Do you have it yet? Is your church becoming "A Church for All God's Children," making a significant response to the needs of children and their families in both the church and community? Excellent resources exist for churches that are seeking to expand their ministry to children. The conference Resource Library has videos available to raise awareness of the needs of children.

**BLESS OUR CHILDREN — PREVENTING SEXUAL ABUSE** (1998) 40 MINUTES Bless Our Children is a videotape and study guide package designed to offer encouragement and support to individuals in religious communities who are exploring the possibility of implementing a child sexual abuse prevention program.

**ABC "PRIME TIME LIVE" EXPLORES YOUR CHILD'S BRAIN** In January of 1995, "Prime Time Live" featured a segment on the latest infant development research. Studies show that the newborn brain is an opportunity not to be missed. Music, singing, listening, playing, changes the brain. Listening to Mozart actually strengthens the memory like exercise strengthens a muscle.

**LISTEN TO THE CHILDREN!** 35 MINUTES This video takes a look at the lives of children — their needs, fears, and hopes. To create this video, children at four UM church settings — Kingston, Jamaica; Flint, Mich.; Nashville, Tenn. and Rayburn County, Ga. — were interviewed about their concerns. The results will surprise you!

**FAITH HOME** A nine-week experience in which families of all kinds come together to learn about God, the Christian faith, and how to be a "faith home" — a home where talking about God and faith, praying, reading the Bible, sharing mealtimes, and reaching out to others are natural and comfortable parts of family life. Families participating in Faith Home will come to see that they also are part of a larger "faith home," the church, where they give and receive love and encouragement as they seek to be faithful families in today's world. With a viewing time of 6 1/2 minutes, the video provides an excellent opportunity for a church board or committee to gain an idea of how the nine-week program works. It also provides a good overview for persons who are beginning their Faith Home program. Created by Dan and Joy Solomon, written by Debra Ball-Kilbourne and MaryJane Pierce Norton.

**THE TODAY SHOW: BRINGING UP BABY (5 SESSIONS)** The five segments of the *BRINGING UP BABY* video, include Ages and Stages, Keys to Growth, Working Moms, Baby Talk and Beyond the Brain.

To order a video, contact Shirlene Spears at (888) 239-

### BOOKS

There is an excellent list of resources in the packet for "A Church for All God's Children." Highlighted below are books that will assist churches in strengthening their ministry to children, including help in initiating study groups, mission projects, and covenant groups for children. We can only list a few, but we hope you will explore the wonderful possibilities available from this list.

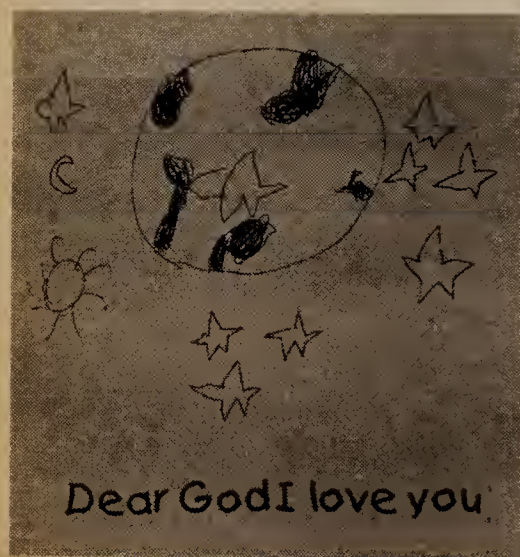
**PUTTING CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES FIRST** by Laura Dean F. Friedrich. A Planning Handbook for Congregations. This is a book that is most helpful in getting started with your children's task force. It provides specific, practical suggestions and models for being "doers of the word and not hearers only." It is a map that will guide you to the places where children and families struggle with the difficulties of daily living. Order from the Service Center of the General Board of Global Ministries, 1997. \$4.75 (\$4.27 each for 5 or more) plus shipping/handling, P.O. Box 6912328, Cincinnati, OH 45269-1328. Call toll-free 1-800-305-9857 or fax 1-513-761-3722.

**HAND IN HAND: Growing Spiritually With Our Children** by Sue Downing This book is designed to help parents raise their children as Christian disciples through praying with them, reading the Bible together, attending church and walking the valleys alongside our children. It also includes a study guide for small group use. Available through Discipleship Resources, P.O. Box 840, Nashville, TN 37202-0840 or at [www.discipleshipresources.org](http://www.discipleshipresources.org).

**SAFE SANCTUARIES Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in the Church** by Joy Thornburg Melton This resource provides guidance for congregations that are committed to providing safe and nurturing ministries for children and youth. It outlines a process for developing policies and procedures to reduce the risk of child abuse in the church. Available from Discipleship Resources, P.O. Box 840, Nashville, TN 37202-0840 or [www.discipleshipresources.org](http://www.discipleshipresources.org).

**SPROUTS: NURTURING CHILDREN THROUGH COVENANT DISCIPLESHIP** We think about covenant groups for adults, but do we ever think about providing a group for children? This book guides congregations through the starting process and gives guidelines for resources. Available from Discipleship Resources, P.O. Box 840, Nashville, TN 37202-0840; phone 1-800-685-4370 or fax 770-442-9742, or [www.discipleshipresources.org](http://www.discipleshipresources.org).

**ABCs Advance Book of Children's Projects** Want to make sure your congregation fulfills its commitment to World Service including ministries with children? This book lists project after project that can be adapted when you give to the ADVANCE. Available from the Service Center of the General Board of Global Ministries. Free except for postage and handling; P.O. Box 691328, Cincinnati, OH 45269-1328. Call toll free 1-800-305-9857, or fax 1-513-761-3722.



Ben Humphrey, First UMC, Quitman, Miss.





## News from the North Shore



124 Lisa Lane  
Mandeville, LA 70448  
(504) 626-0918

**District Superintendent**  
Dr. Grayson Watson

**Communication Advisor**  
Rev. Wanda Cosentino

# North Shore reaches out with unique missions

## Do United Methodists still have missionaries to other countries? YES WE DO!

by **Dr. Don Cottrill**  
**Pastor, Aldersgate UMC**

United Methodist Missionaries Karen and Sebastine Ujereh are back on home assignment for a visit to Louisiana. They and their children are visiting the Louisiana Conference between mission assignments in Africa. The Ujerehs are completing their ministry in Harare, Zimbabwe and will soon be returning to begin their work in Senegal.

Several of the congregations in the Louisiana Conference are assisting in the support of this family, many in a program called a Covenant Relationship. Churches in a Covenant Relationship agree to provide at least \$1,000 per year to support a missionary of their choosing. The Covenant is arranged through the General Board of Global Ministries, the mission arm of our connectional church.

The Ujereh family entered the mission field from the Louisiana Conference. Sebastine is a native of Umuohara, Nigeria. He holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees in Economics from the University of New Orleans. Karen is a native of New



**Missionaries**

**Sebastine and Karen Ujereh**

Orleans, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Southern University in New Orleans.

Sebastine's specific assignment has been to develop an Economic Empowerment Program, with the primary purpose of alleviating poverty. He reports that these enterprises are going well and that some have even created additional jobs for other poor people. The specific assignment for Karen is as the financial executive for the area.

The visits from the Ujerehs to our local covenant congregations have strengthened our connection with the mission of the church to, "Go into all the world" and to understand that "the world is our parish." Their stories encourage our own resolve to not only support the Ujerehs and other missionaries, but also to share in their ministry in our own way, both abroad and at home.

The Ujerehs are one family among international missionaries in the United Methodist Church. Their ministry is making a difference in our world. We rejoice that we are able to share in this ministry of Christ.

## A Russian connection

In October 1997, the chair of missions at Aldersgate UMC, Slidell, asked for volunteers to house business men and women from other countries. I looked at my husband and said, "It's only 10 days." So started our Russian adventure.

CCI is the acronym for the Center for Citizens Initiative, a non-profit organization that brings Russian men and women to the U.S. for management training. CCI works with American civic groups like Rotary International for the mutual exchange of information. Persons in businesses such as restaurants, construction, building materials, medical products and municipal leadership are selected as delegates to the U.S. These are private citizens that hope to better the business environment in their cities in Russia. That's how we adopted Sasha. Alexander Oleinikov is the director of a construction firm in the city of Rostov.

His company builds houses, office buildings, schools and large apartment buildings in the southern part of his country. Alexander is a big boss, but he is also "our Sasha." He stayed with us for three weeks and became our son and friend. When he invited us to visit his home, we said "one day." Well, we have just returned from our trip. It was the adventure of a life time.

There were four of us from Aldersgate, Tom and Nancy Richardson, my husband Frank, and myself. On a Sunday morning in Moscow we quietly entered the vestibule of a very small church and listened to the a cappella choir. The patriarch chanted the call to worship. God filled this place with beauty. The walls were covered with icons and pictures of the saints and of our risen Lord. In the middle of this former communist capital, the church is alive.

We left Moscow and headed south to see other friends. Everywhere we went we found warm generous people. They spread a feast before us and we felt welcome.

Russia suffered great losses during World War II. Entire cities were destroyed. Rebuilding has been slow for some areas. Under communism, church buildings were used for many things including grain storage or as museums. Now the buildings are being renovated.

We visited the Ascension Army Cathedral in Novocherkassk with one of our friends. He had joined the Party at 19 and still believed at 50 that communism could work. He showed us this beautiful cathedral and bought candles for us. He knew the names of the saints and of the main altars in the church. We offered thanks for answered prayers. He was a

Communist, but also a believer.

As we continued south, the temperature rose to over 100 F. No air conditioning is available anywhere. Life is slower in the south...southern Russia or South Louisiana. We enjoyed a few more precious days with picnics and fishing and found the crawfish in Rostov are bigger than in New Orleans, but they

don't use crab boil. We enjoyed the bounties of "southern" cooking.

The next Sunday morning found us back at Aldersgate, jet-lagged but smiling. We briefly shared our experiences with our Sunday school class. Someone asked, "Would you go again?" Yes, I'd go tomorrow.

— Nancy Mitchum

## North Shore youth involved in 'special' mission

Luke 12: 22-32 was the scripture and theme for the eight day mission in which the Senior High youth from Aldersgate UMC participated. Their focus was on letting God take care of the details and to just enjoy the many gifts God gives us each day. The group decided to stay in Louisiana for its mission, serving at a ranch-turned camp for the developmentally impaired. The ranch is called Lick Skillet and is located in Bethany, about 20 miles west of Shreveport, almost on the Texas border. Part of the program is hippotherapy, which involves speech and physical therapy while the client is on horseback. The results are amazing.



**North Shore youth learn new skills at Lick Skillet.**

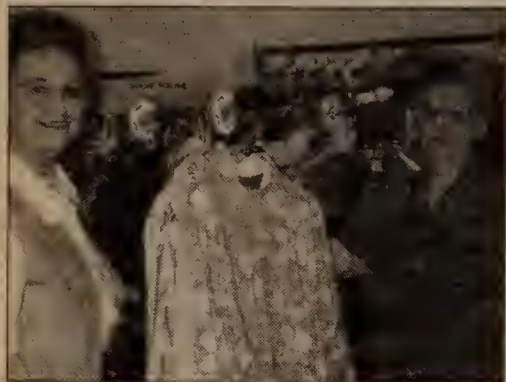
Of course there is no hippotherapy without horses and the many tasks required to maintain them. Some of the youth learned new skills like mucking stalls, horse and feedings, to name a few. Other youth restored an old ranch house which will be used for crafts in the future. Another group painted and replaced the wooden seats on the bleachers in front of the horse arena which is used for exhibitions for groups of people with special needs as well as therapy. The youth cut grass, painted, changed toilet seats, cleaned and scraped mildew off of walls and windows, made door ways handicapped accessible, built picnic tables, traveled by hay wagon across the highway to the bunk house for lunch, and more.

This mission was an awesome experience for youth and adults. We continue to look for ways to reach out to people with special needs. It is exciting to have been part of the preparation for this wonderful camp which will be a reality in the very near future for all of our special friends in Louisiana. God's gifts were certainly everywhere.



**Ascension Army Cathedral in Novocherkassk.**





Dot Loe (left) and Polly McCallister display items available at the "Clothes Closet."

## One church's story ... 'Closet' ministry helps in times of need

*"I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."*  
Matthew 25:36 (NSRV)

The words of Jesus have real meaning in the Clothes Closet Ministry of First UMC of Arcadia. Organized six years ago, the Clothes Closet Ministry has not only aided local residents in need, but also has ministered to transients. The ministry is supported by contributions of clothing and household goods, monetary donations and communion offerings. Donations from several area merchants have been received as well.

In the past year, 144 families, which included over 500 individuals, were provided with clothing, shoes, and other goods and services. Six families, whose homes had burned, were assisted with the arduous task of starting over.

When the idea was first conceived, shoes and clothing were the focus of its effort, but soon it became apparent that there were other needs to be met. Temporary shelter, meals for the hungry, emergency utility funds, gasoline and even medical attention have been made available to God's children in need.

Dot and Tom Loe and Mrs. Polly McCallister staff the Clothes Closet. They have been instrumental in organizing every aspect of the ministry, and have spent countless hours sorting and sizing clothes, organizing meals, and securing medical treatment and lodging for those in need. Surely, God's love is shared with all who meet these special people who reach out to a suffering world in Jesus' name at First UMC, Arcadia.

## Got news?

If you have articles, stories and/or pictures that you would like to be included in the next Ruston District News page, please contact **Carol Stewart, district communication advisor**, at (318) 843-6329, or email at [stew@iamerica.net](mailto:stew@iamerica.net). The mailing address is 2013 Hwy. 794, Gibsland, LA 71028.

## Payment rendered: One cow

When was the last time a pastor or Bible study teacher was paid for services through the gift of a cow? Such was the case of the DISCIPLE I Bible study at Trinity UMC in Ruston this past spring.

When the class, lead by layperson Bill Jones, completed its 34-week study, members were very appreciative of the knowledge and nourishment they had received. The dedicated leadership by Bill led the class to search for a special gift for their teacher. After much thought and prayer, the group decided on the gift of a Brahma



Bill Jones and "Alice"

calf whom they affectionately named Alice. Alice joined the rest of Bill's herd in Simsboro and is grazing happily.

A member of Bill's class, Ronny Graham, explained the reason that the class decided on a cow. "We talked about cows and horses and farming for 34 weeks, so we figured we needed to buy him a cow."

As Trinity approaches the time of year for DISCIPLE Bible to begin again, the church is honored to have as DISCIPLE leaders five students who were taught by Bill Jones last year.

## Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!



Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord! That was the theme for pre-camp at Caney Conference Center. It was a howling success!

## Wesley Foundation mission trips changes students' lives

by **Scott Wright, Campus Minister Wesley Foundation, Louisiana Tech**

The Wesley Foundation at Louisiana Tech University took 15 people to Gressier, Haiti. This is the second consecutive year we have gone to Haiti. Once again, the lives of the students have been changed forever. They have come to realize the power of God in the worst of conditions.

Mission outreach is a primary focus of our ministry. It allows the students the opportunity to put their faith into action. There is no greater training ground. They

see God in action through themselves. God has truly blessed our ministry through our various mission trips to Haiti, inner-city New York, inner-city Philadelphia, Mexico, Los Angeles and Chicago.

One of our greatest mission outreaches, however, is to the Ruston community, and especially to the campus of Louisiana Tech University.

The following letter was sent to all those who supported the Haiti mission trip:

### A WORD FROM MONICA, THE FEARLESS LEADER!

You have had a vital impact on Haiti. Let me explain. We started off as a ragtag group of scruffy missionaries. We didn't have the money to get to Haiti and many of you gave so generously. We didn't have the power to get our medicine there, to face the extreme poverty, or to make a bit of difference in a land of such need...and many of you prayed unceasingly. God provided for every need - from waiving our highly declarable medicine right through customs to protecting us from getting too sick.

God's provision was generous. He showed me Matthew 25:34-35 and helped me see our purpose among the poverty. After our first day of manual labor, I realized God had a ton of reasons and ways to use us in Haiti. Foreign aid organizations have not given anything to Haiti in the last two years because there is no adequate government to distribute it.

The church is the shining light of hope in Haiti. I'm grateful I got to see it in action. With the building not yet complete, they worshipped outside in the yard. When the electricity went off — as it often does in Haiti — they just kept on. They sang with abandon and were eager to hear the words of Truth. They know their God is real because they depend on Him for existence. And they have joy. In the midst of their trials, there it is, bubbling over. Jesus is Lord!

Monica Moore

RUSTON DISTRICT NEWS

RDN

901 S. Vienna  
Ruston, LA 71270  
(318) 255-2690

**District Superintendent**  
Rev. Jimmie D. Pyles

**Communication Advisor**  
Carol Stewart

## Mission in Motion moves through district



From Minden to Arcadia to Ruston, the MIM truck traveled across the Ruston District in July gathering supplies for the UMCOR Depot in Baldwin.



# Shreveport District News

2911 Centenary Boulevard  
P.O. Box 41188  
Shreveport, LA 71134  
(318) 869-458

**District Superintendent**  
Dr. Bobby Potter

**District Communication Advisor**  
Rev. Dale Hensarling

## Shreveport District Ministry Team

**District Superintendent**

Dr. Bobby Potter

**District Missioner**

Betsy Eaves

**Lay Leader**

Ray Owens

**CFA**

Rev. William Peeples

**Board of Church**

**Bldg./Location/Ext.**

Rev. Greg Davis

**Education Ministries Leader**

Bonnie Daniel

**Renewal Ministries Leader**

Tom Dixon

**Meditative Ministries Leader**

Rev. Steve Kelly

**Outreach Ministries Leader**

Vernon Rich

**Communication Advisor**

Rev. Dale Hensarling

**Youth Coordinator**

Gina S. Jenkins

**Youth Representatives**

Patrick McCuller

Meagan King

**At Large**

Nell Inman

Lueburda Myers

## Volunteer in Mission team caravans to Oklahoma to help Native American congregation

Around 2 p.m. June 14, the hot Sunday after the close of Annual Conference, a strange assortment of trucks, cars, vans, Jeeps, sport utility vehicles, trailers and recreational vehicles converged on the parking lot of Love Chapel UMC in the Shreveport District. They came not only from the east Bossier area of the Shreveport District, but also from the Ringgold Castor area of the Ruston District, and even a couple came from Lafayette.

This was the rendezvous point and point of departure for a caravan to what would likely be an even hotter area of the country. Men, women, children, and teens were driving to Oklahoma to work outdoors and indoors (without air conditioning) scraping and painting to redeem an old building from destruction, and trimming, dry-walling and texturizing the interior of a new one. They would not be paid for doing this. They were even going at their own expense. Were they crazy?

No, they weren't crazy. They were faithful. Faithful to a Lord who said, "Go into all the world," and "As you have done it unto the least of one of these, you've done it unto me." Well, "all the world" included the White Sand UMC in Bennington, Okla., and "the least of these" certainly included a small, elderly, mostly female, Native American congregation. (There is only one male member among the women in the congregation.)



The VIM team from Louisiana is still smiling — even at the end of a week together!

This gathering was the culmination of a conversation a year before between Volunteers In Mission staff members of the Oklahoma and Louisiana Annual Conferences. These conversations gave birth to an idea that the two conferences might work together on projects within each state, as well as projects in other states or even beyond national boundaries. So, two pastors, Dale Hensarling at Love UMC and Joe Hoover at the Ringgold-



The children — the ones they thought they didn't have— perform at the end of VBS at White Sand UMC.

Castor Charge, decided to take the challenge to their congregations.

So, after a lot of prayer, planning, and fund-raising, thirty people traveled to Bennington to build buildings and, more importantly, build relationships, including relationships that seemed out of reach. For example, the women of the Ringgold-Castor contingent brought supplies and planned to conduct Vacation Bible School for children around

the White Sand church. They were told by the pastor, however, that the Bible School might not be a good idea because the church had no children. But, they replied, "Are there children in the area? If so, we'll go get 'em!" They did and finished a fun-filled week with more than twenty children touched by the love of Christ.

At the reunion supper after the team's return, it was announced that there was money left in the joint trip fund. This was greeted first, by a, "Hmmm," and then a "Hey!" and then a "Why don't we . . .?" And, now, a smaller group plans to deploy and finish enough of the building for the congregation to be able to use it through the holidays and winter without having to wait for the next mission team to arrive next summer.

Crazy? Possibly.

Maybe more of us should be . . . Volunteers In Mission, that is.

## 'Welfare to Work' and beyond

by Rev. Dale Hensarling  
District Communication Advisor

In January, 1999, thousands of men, women, and children in Louisiana will feel the impact of the "Welfare to Work" initiative when their welfare benefits are terminated. Some of them will be traumatized by what seems disaster. Others will take it in stride and move on to better things. Still others will not even notice. Those who take it in stride will be those who access systems and tools to prepare them for a better life. Those who do not even notice will be persons who have already used those systems and tools.

How can people move from the first (traumatized) group into the latter two? The key to success is coaching, teaching and mentoring and involvement of Christians helping people form and strengthen their foundations of faith. This is according to Dan Perkins, executive

director of Faith and Families, an organization based in Shreveport and created to help persons move from welfare to work.

In a recent meeting initiated by Rev. Judy Bazer at Houghton UMC, Perkins suggested, "If each of Louisiana's 8,000 churches adopts one eligible family yearly, the state's welfare rolls would be empty in six years." He went on to say that in the Welfare to Work and Faith and Families endeavor, United Methodists have been the first to step forward, due in part to the inspiration of Louisiana Bishop Dan Solomon.

The voluntary Faith and Families program believes that, "The faith community of churches and synagogues can meet a pressing need in our state while...serving the needs of those whose lives have been touched deeply by adversity.

"Relationships between churches and families will be lifelong. Think of the impact if a young mother with four children can become part of a circle of friends who help her make her family successful. . . as they grow into productive citizens."

The United Methodist Church has a rich history as Christians in mission to help the oppressed reclaim the power to stand up as sacred children of God, and by God's grace, take control of their lives.

The church of Jesus Christ has had in its charter for 2,000 years the mandate to minister to the poor, the needy, the dispossessed, those whom secular powers have neglected.

If you would like to discover ways in which your congregation can reclaim this calling in your community, call or write Betsy Eaves, district missioner, at 318-869-5024.

Internet?

Direct Mail?

Website

Church Links?

T.V.

Print?

Sound confusing?  
Intriguing? Infuriating?  
Let's talk.

The Shreveport District Communication Committee is forming. Call (318) 949-0430 or 869-4568 and leave your number or e-mail at [Xpistou@aol.com](mailto:Xpistou@aol.com).



## Thompson brings 'holy leisure' to Louisiana ministers

by Rev. Dale Hensarling  
Pastor, Love Chapel UMC, Haughton

In the midst of the summer's heat, Minister's Week 1998 offered a spiritual oasis to Louisiana Conference ministers.

Three days with Marjorie Thompson, director of the Pathways Center for Christian Spirituality at the Upper Room in Nashville, "blew away" the preconceptions of attendees about continuing education, rest and replenishment, Minister's Week, pastors' school, nurture v. technique and spiritual development. Most found a warm reception, space to relax and unwind, and closeness enough to affirm a common call to ministry and a common frustration with the distance between "now" and "not yet."

The late Henri Nonwen said of Thompson: "...she does not impose, push or manipulate. She simply invites us to create the space where the life of God in us can be nurtured and brought to fruition." (from the Foreword to *Soul Feast* by Marjorie Thompson, Westminster/John Knox Press, 1995.)

For those of us with her at the Louisiana Conference Center the second week in July, Nouwen's was a fair assessment. In an expertly and gently crafted environment (created largely thanks to the effort of Rev. Flint Shea, associate pastor, First UMC, Baton Rouge and coordinator of this year's event), Thompson invited both the seasoned pilgrim and the novice sojourner into an experience of nurture, respite, and personal discipline, while imparting unique gifts for participants to take back

to local congregations hungering for an ever deepening experience of God's work in their lives.

A Wednesday evening of worship, food and relaxed fellowship set the tone for the opening session on Thursday morning in which Thompson gave the attending clergy permission to release themselves from the agenda "back at the church" by introducing them to the ancient concept of "holy leisure." Then, acknowledging the need for shepherds to shepherd, she led the gathering through exercises in resting and listening—quite a contrast to the speaking and doing to which most ministers are accustomed!

"I wouldn't have thought," said one minister, "that anything could have done so much to nourish my own spirit's hunger, and at the same time have given my task-oriented side practical, real-world stuff to carry back to my church as these few days have. I might even try something like this again." Another said, "Why do I have to come way off down here to find out that my brothers and sisters are hurting and hungry for the same sort of things I am?"

Thompson creatively wove together a variety of spiritual resources which invited participants, as Nouwen stated, into a sacred space in which they might encounter the Spirit of God in their own way.

Quoting Teresa of Avila, Thompson dissolved any concepts of degrees of spirituality: "No soul on this road is such a giant that it does not often need to become a child at the breast again. For there is no state of prayer, however

## Blue elected to co-lead jurisdiction-wide organization

The Women's Leadership Team, a jurisdiction-wide organization committed to inclusive leadership in The United Methodist Church, recently elected new officers at a meeting in



Rev. Ellen Blue

Dallas, Tx. Named to serve as co-conveners were the Rev. Ellen Blue, an elder in the Louisiana Annual Conference, and JoAnn Miles, a laywoman from the Little Rock Annual Conference.

Blue currently pastors Metairie UMC. Her previous pastorates have included

both cross-racial and inter-racial appointments and she served as Parish Worker in the Monroe District, establishing programs for at-risk minority youth in urban congregations. An advocate for women's issues for nearly two decades, she is also a member of the New Orleans District's Board of Urban Ministry and has recently served on the design team for the new Order of Elders in the Louisiana Conference. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Northeast Louisiana University and a Master of Divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University.

Miles is continuing in the position of co-convenor of the WLT, which she helped to organize in 1986.

The vision statement of the WLT calls for the full inclusion of all members of the body of Christ, and, in particular, representation in the episcopacy for all members of the body, especially women and persons from ethnic minorities.

## Jammin' in Jackson: Singles 'all one' in Christ

by Dollene Sims  
St. Mark UMC, Baton Rouge

"Jammin' in Jackson," a national conference designed to train leaders and potential leaders of single adult ministries, was held in Jackson, Miss. July 30-Aug. 2.

Both St. Mark and Broadmoor UMCs in Baton Rouge sent representatives from their SAMs. Having experienced life-changing workshops, motivational speakers, powerful worship services and free time to share with other singles, each group came back excited with renewed energy and new learning that will help as they work in their respective churches and communities.

Highlights of the event included worship services at Galloway UMC; preaching and speaking by Bishop Peter Weaver and Dr. Sheron Patterson; a concert in the park with music provided by Anderson UMC and "These Days," a jazz ensemble; and a tour of "The Splendors of Versailles" exhibit at the Mississippi Arts Pavilion.

The message throughout the conference was that singles are not alone because we are all one in Christ. Participants left committed to use their gifts to plan and implement programs for singles which promote the feeling of our oneness in Christ.

## Two Louisiana pastors graduate from Emory Course of Study School

Congratulations to Rev. Charles Cosentino, pastor, Greensburg-Wesley Chapel UMC's in the North Shore District and Rev. Ann Sutton, associate pastor, First UMC, Lafayette, in the Acadiana District, who were among the graduating class of the 1998 Emory University Course of Study School in Atlanta.



Charles Cosentino



Ann Sutton

This year, over 230 local pastors participated in four-week or two-week summer sessions of intensive studies and training, which was preceded by a full complement of required pre-course work. This training will assist them

in fulfilling their obligations as licensed clergy in their annual conferences.

## Historic Methodist conference to focus on black men's issues

Issues ranging from fatherless households to male mentoring to health care will be examined at an historic black men's conference Oct. 15-18 in Atlanta.

With representatives from the four Pan-Methodist denominations, the event will focus on addressing critical issues facing the African-American man in the coming millennium.

As the next century approaches, the "African-American male is facing an unprecedented crisis," said Rev. Joseph Harris, top staff executive for the churchwide Commission on United Methodist Men.

The crisis may be seen in statistics showing that black males, more than members of any other ethnic group, are more likely to be victims or perpetrators of crime, underemployed, impoverished and chemically dependent, he said.

"The systematic disintegration of an entire generation of men has decimated the African-American family and local community," Harris said.

The 1998 National Black Men's Conference, sponsored in part by the United Methodist Commission on United Methodist Men, will be held at the Georgia International Convention Center. It will be the first event of its kind since the 1800s, when African-Americans left to form sister denominations that

follow Methodist doctrine and Wesleyan practices.

The event, which begins with a 7 p.m. worship on Oct. 15, will be a celebratory gathering of at least 5,000 men from the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church.

Although designed primarily for African-American men, the gathering is open to people of all races who are interested in attending.

The plenary sessions will feature speakers who have been "modern day trailblazers" through their impact on the spiritual and social advancement of their communities. Each will engage conference participants in discussing reconciliation, personal initiatives and reform strategies for the African-American community.

Music for the gathering will be provided by soloists, choirs and groups from across the country who will perform in contemporary, gospel, traditional, classical and a capella styles. More than 500 men will form a mass choir to sing for the Sunday morning closing service.

For registration information, call 1-888-8BROTHER.



AROUND

THE CONFERENCE

NEWS

### Pastoral retreat to be held at abbey

Too many phone calls? Too much heat? Too many too-manies? Do you feel the need to just "be still and know?"

That is the purpose of The Center for Pastoral Effectiveness' Fall Retreat at St. Joseph Abbey, a Benedictine Monastery located near Covington. The monastery is a well-known oasis to the over 200 Louisiana Conference clergy who have been there on retreats with The Center's "Track One" or "Track Two."

In the past, these retreats have been open only to those who were involved in one of the Tracks, but this one is open to anyone.

**You Have a Choice**

If you would like to make this your own time, structuring your day as you see fit, you are free to do so.

On the other hand, if you crave structure, John Winn, director of The Center, will conduct two-hour sessions each afternoon on the book, *Creating a Healthier Church*, by Ronald Richardson. Please order the book in advance from Cokesbury.

The cost is \$120, which includes room and board. Checks should be made payable to The Louisiana Conference and marked, The Center for Pastoral Effectiveness.

Contact Dr. John Winn at The Center for Pastoral Effectiveness at (504) 781-5543 for registration details.

**Louisiana Conference Edition of the United Methodist Review**  
Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

**EDITORIAL TEAM:**  
Dr. Rena Yocom, Director, Gospel Communications  
Bobbie Armstrong, Editor  
Dr. Alonzo Campbell

Subscriptions: \$12.50 per year  
(Please make checks payable to Louisiana Annual Conference.)

Send subscriptions, news and information to:  
Editor  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
1 (888) 239-5286  
(225)346-1646, (225) 383-2652 fax  
e-mail: laumc@premier.net

**On the Web**  
You can find the Louisiana Annual Conference on the Internet at  
<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>

**DEADLINE FOR:**  
September 4 Issue--August 24

### Camp Cool Breeze offers fun, education



Camp Cool Breeze, a program for youth with asthma, held its first annual camp July 20-25 at Hartzell Mt. Zion UMC in Slidell. The children learned a lot about the illness and had lots of fun.

The camp has evolved into a children and youth support club called "The Cool Breezers," which will meet once a month to provide educational and recreational activities. The first activity was a back-to-school splash party on August 8.

Next year's camp will be held at the Gulfside Assembly in Waveland, Miss. the last two weeks in July.

Contact Hartzell Mt. Zion UMC at (504) 643-3555 for more information.

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The area code for Baton Rouge has changed to "225."

The Conference Office telephone number is now (225) 346-1646. The toll-free number will remain (888) 239-5286.

Please make a note of this change.

### VIM NOTES

Please pray for our missionaries in the field.

Louisiana VIM Construction Team  
Paoli, Okla.  
Aug. 23-29

### LOUISIANA

Habla usted Espanol? If you do, Louisisana VIM needs you to...well, volunteer. Spanish translators are urgently needed. Please call Rev. Larry D. Norman at (888)239-5286.

### Coming soon

The United Methodist Women of Munholland UMC in Metairie will hold their annual "Old Fashioned Holidays" bazaar Saturday, Sept. 26 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 1201 Metairie Road. All proceeds benefit local and regional missions.

The Saturday-only event will include handmade crafts, a "white elephant" section, plants, books and records, jewelry, baked and homemade goods, children's activities, and hot plate lunches. Come out and enjoy some good old-fashioned fun. There is no admission charge.

The Baton Rouge District Council on Youth Ministries will host DISCIPLE for Youth. An orientation meeting will be held Tuesday, Sept. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at Wesley UMC in Baton Rouge.

If you have a small group and would like to join with other youth to share in learning the Word, let us hear from you.

For more information, call the Baton Rouge District Office at (225) 296-0668 or Faye Ross at (225) 775-2166.

Lafon Nursing Home Auxiliary of the UM Church will hold its annual luncheon "Fashion Extravaganza" Saturday, Sept. 12 at 1 p.m. in the Educational Building of St. James UMC located at 1925 Ursuline Avenue in New Orleans.

Call (504) 241-7138 or 945-9448 for ticket information.

### CONFERENCE Program Calendar

- August**
- 23 Christian Education Sunday
  - 27-29 DISCIPLE Bible Study Training, Baton Rouge
- September**
- 11-20 VIM, Bolivia (Medical)
  - 12 North Louisiana Summit, "Children in Need," Trinity UMC, Ruston, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
  - 12 Uskichitto Board of Directors Meeting, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

### In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to:

Mrs. Mary F. Tooke on the death of her husband, Rev. Karl B. Tooke, retired (Ruston District), Aug. 7. His funeral was held Aug. 10 at First UMC, Arcadia. Rev. Tooke was a past superintendent for the Lake Charles District.

Mrs. Joyce Wilkes, surviving spouse of Rev. Monroe Wilkes, former director of Camp Istrouma (Baton Rouge District), on the death of her mother, Mrs. Mary Side Brannon Milton, July 26. The funeral for Mrs. Milton, who was 101 years old and the oldest member of Walker UMC, was held July 29 in Denham Springs.

Rev. Bob Hollis, pastor, Memorial-Oak Ridge UMCs (Monroe District), on the death of his mother, Mrs. Verla Hollis, Aug. 3. Her funeral was held Aug. 5 in Claremore, Okla.

Rev. Kirby Verret, pastor, Clanton Chapel, Dulac (Acadiana District), on the death of his mother, Mrs. Mary Verret, Aug. 9. Her funeral was held Aug. 11 in Theriot.

Rev. Bo Home, pastor, Crew Lake-Little Creek-Union UMCs (Monroe District), on the death of his father, Mr. Newton Home, Sr., Aug. 12. His funeral was held Aug. 14 in Rayville.

the family of Rev. Dr. Raymond K DeHainaut, former member of the Louisiana Conference, who died July 23 in Tampa, Fla. Dr. DeHainaut served as LSU Wesley Foundation director in the '50s. From 1994-96, he and his wife Delaine served as Peace with Justice educators for the Louisiana Conference; they were also missionaries under the UM General Board of Global Ministries. Memorial gifts can be sent to Temple Terrance UMC, 5032 Bush Blvd., Tampa, FL 33617, for the Dominican Street Children project, a UM mission providing schooling opportunities for children in the Dominican Republic.



# Louisiana

## CONFERENCE

### edition

Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
504.346.1646  
/504.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

Vol 15 No 19 ■ September 4, 1998

018000 Send P.O. Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

## Fall Convocation kicks off Louisiana focus on 'Youth in Crisis'

On September 26, Fall Convocation will celebrate the "Year of the Youth" with Rev. Tex Sample, professor of Church and Society at St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri, speaking about "What's Going On With Youth." The kick-off event for "Youth In Crisis," this day-long event will be held at the Louisiana Conference Center in Woodworth from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Assisted by Rebecca Eskew, president of the Conference Council on Youth Ministry, Rev. Jon Tellifero, pastor, First UMC, DeRidder, and Carolyn Dove, Conference youth direc-

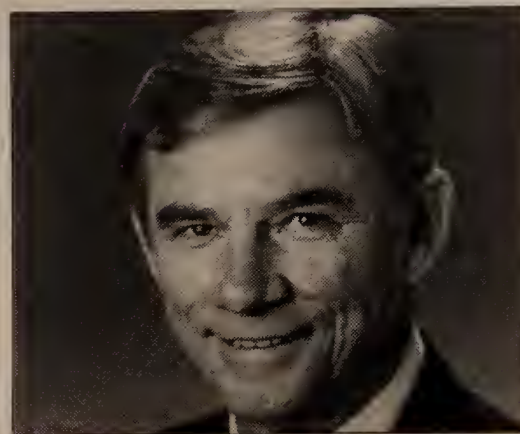
tor, are co-chairing a committee of youth and adults to plan and implement a year-long emphasis on youth as part of The Episcopal Initiative on Children and Poverty. The emphasis began during the 1998 session of Annual Conference with youth witnessing to their faith and with the observance of Denim Day as a means of acknowledging the gifts and needs of youth, not only in Louisiana, but also in the world.

Celia Whitler, a graduate of Centenary College, school teacher, songwriter and singer, will lead the music for the event. The drama group from Hope UMC,

Monroe, will perform and young adults will give witness to their faith. "Worshipful work" will be the theme for the day. The cost will be \$10 per person and a donation of at least one new pair of jeans per church. The day will be filled with fun, fellowship, sharing and music. Opportunities to support the Youth Service Fund will include purchasing T-shirts and shorts.

Fall Convocation only begins the emphasis on "Youth In Crisis," the theme for the second year of the Louisiana Annual Conference's four year plan to implement the Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty. During the fall of 1998 and continuing through the spring of 1999, district events will be held throughout the conference in which youth will help adults understand, from a youth perspective, their concerns and stress factors. Opportunities to reach out to youth beyond local church circles will be shared during each event. More information concerning the dates, places and times of district events will be available during September; information sheets will be given out at Fall Convocation.

Please be in prayer that the lives of the



Tex Sample



Celia Whitler

youth of this state will be touched and healed by newfound relationships with God. If you are interested in helping, please contact Rev. Tellifero at (318) 463-4491 or Carolyn Dove at (888) 239-5286 or (225) 346-1646. Local churches have registration forms for Fall Convocation.



## A Church for All God's Children

## Reporting forms available for church-changing challenge



Hear the challenge. Hear the call.

Don't you want your church to be "A Church for All God's Children?" All Louisiana United Methodist congregations are being invited to accept the challenge and to respond in specific ways to be more responsive to the needs of children and families in their church and in their community. Reshape the life of your congregation in response to the crisis among children.

A challenge, a call, a crisis, a checklist, a church...and a choice to be made. Choose carefully and compassionately. Change the world, one child at a time.

Packets and reporting forms for this exciting opportunity are now available at all nine district offices.

## Episcopal Address videos available at no charge

Bishop Dan Solomon...You love him in person; now, catch him on video. Free!

Yes, free! Every charge in the Louisiana Conference is entitled to one free copy of Bishop Solomon's 1998 Annual Conference Episcopal Address--"What Time is this Time?"

It's time for every congregation in Louisiana to see this dynamic, down-to-earth and moving description of our conference's purpose, mission and responsibility as only Bishop Solomon can convey it. Share the video during a worship service, Sunday school class or special event. It will unite your church and connect it with the rest of Louisiana United Methodism.

Contact your district office for your copy.



Bishop Dan Solomon

## INSIDE ...

- 2 Memories of Africa
- 2 VIM, Cuban Initiative trip
- 3 New Orleans music workshop with Wilson-Felder
- 3 Scholarships available
- 4 Russians July visit





Ray Caraway

## Being and Doing

### 'Memories from Africa'



**Editors Note:** Bishop Dan Solomon has invited key staff leaders in the Louisiana Conference to be guest columnists for "Being and Doing" for the next few issues.

by Ray Caraway  
President, United Methodist  
Foundation of Louisiana

Those of us who had the opportunity to represent our conference on a recent trip to Africa were touched by the experience in many different ways. We were inspired, saddened, angered and amazed.

We saw poverty and human suffering on a scale that dwarfs anything we have seen in the United States. We heard stories of government corruption and mismanagement that make even Louisiana politics seem tame. And in the midst of it all, we witnessed people of faith struggling to be faithful under circumstances few of us could bear.

Having returned home many weeks ago, my memories of Africa have already begun to fade. The following journal entries made during the trip serve as reminders to me of experiences I will continue to learn from for many years to come.

cient. We were all completely amazed at this very enthusiastic and articulate young pastor's willingness to live and work in such difficult conditions. Bishop Solomon remarked that in witnessing this pastor at work, we had seen Jesus.

**Thursday, July 9, 1998 (Luanda, Angola)**

Driving around the streets of Luanda was quite an experience. Most of this city of several million people consists of slums filled with garbage and teeming with traffic, crowds of people and unattended or abandoned children. It was heart breaking to see so many children--many the same age as my little boy-- who were naked or dressed in rags and living in dirt-floor, cinderblock huts with no plumbing or electricity. The children at the United Methodist school we visited were among the fortunate few. In stark contrast to the children right outside the gates of the school, the children inside were clean, well-fed and neatly dressed.



**Bishop Dan Solomon ties a tennis shoe on a child in Angola.** Photo by Joy Solomon

**Tuesday, July 7, 1998  
(Johannesburg, South Africa)**

The poverty we saw yesterday in Soweto was extraordinary, but not nearly so foreign to us as what we experienced today at a "resettlement area" called Ivory Park. We traveled down a well-maintained highway a few miles outside of Johannesburg and turned off on a dirt road which led into a sea of makeshift shacks thrown together with pieces of scrap metal, wood and cardboard. Right in the middle of this vast rural slum of 300,000 people was a beautiful, newly constructed Methodist Church with an innovative young pastor who was trying to help the residents become self-suffi-

**Friday, July 10, 1998 (Angola)**

Today we traveled north of Luanda into the countryside with the United Methodist bishop of West Angola as our guide. It is a beautiful country, and the bishop told us how rich the country is in terms of natural resources such as oil, gold, diamonds and fertile soil. "We should be ashamed," he said, "of what we have done to this country." He was referring to the various civil wars which have been going on since 1975 when Angola achieved its independence from Portugal. We saw the latest casualties of the fighting in the form of refugees driven from their villages and forced to set up makeshift grass huts.



**Abraham, a 12-year-old boy from Luanda and proud owner of new tennis shoes, stands with Rev. James Haynes (right), a member of the Louisiana Conference Tennis Shoe Delivery Team.** Photo by Ray Caraway

**Saturday, July 11, 1998 (Luanda, Angola)**

A little boy named Abraham came by the guest house today to thank us for the tennis shoes he received. Through an interpreter he told us that his father had been taken out of their home in the middle of the night in 1993 and has not been heard from since. He was probably killed by one of the factions in the civil war. Abraham lives with his aunt and sisters in a one-room, dirt-floor house adjacent to the United Methodist headquarters. He said his ambition is to be a medical assistant when he grows up.

**The church offers hope**

We may not have the answers that will enable us to "fix" all that is broken in Africa, but it is important that we have faith in God's ability to provide answers. It is important that we care about the people of Africa and that we do all we can to help. Yes, important to them, but perhaps even more important to us. It is, after all, the church that is focused on the needs of others--at home and abroad--which has the greatest hope for a bright future. To do otherwise is to cease to be the church at all.

## VIM team delivers gift from La. Cuban Initiative

by Rev. Jack O'Dell  
Pastor, First UMC, Lafayette

Seven Louisiana United Methodists recently traveled to Miller, Cuba as a Louisiana Volunteers in Mission team. The group delivered a \$5,000 cash gift from the Louisiana Annual Conference Cuban Initiative. Medicines, school supplies and work supplies were also given on behalf of Louisiana UM congregations.

Team members were: Sarah Schoeffler and Jack O'Dell from First UMC, Lafayette; Henry Blount, Elsie Gauntz, and Nathan Roberts from First UMC, Alexandria; Larry O'Dell from Christ UMC, Shreveport; and John McNally from St Charles UMC, Destrehan.

The group spent a week at Camp Canaan (in the middle of the island) which is under construction. When completed, Camp Canaan, which will be able to host 1,000 people at a time, will be a center for Christian discipleship, study, and fellowship for the Methodist Church in Cuba. While there, the work team dug new sewage ditches and covered old ones, assisted in laying tile floors and recycled nails and boards to be used in future construction. During the evening hours, the team worshipped at a home church, at the Methodist church of Santa Clara and at Camp Canaan with the people of Miller.

The week was filled with many wonderful moments. Although living under extreme conditions of economic poverty and hardships, the Cubans shared an abundance of spirit in worship and in service.

Louisiana United Methodists have established sister-church relationships with several Methodist congregations in Cuba. The Cuba Initiative has plans for VIM teams to work in Cuba annually.

If you want to hear more about the trip, please contact any member of the team. Contact Larry Norman, director, Louisiana VIM, at (888) 239-5286 to sign up for the next trip to Cuba or Mark Martin, chair of the Conference Committee on Cuba Initiative, at (504) 764-8292.

Let us pray for the people of Cuba and give thanks for their faithful witness.



**Construction at Camp Canaan**





## Dillard's Matthews, Spikes attend international educators' conference in England

An international group of Methodist educators were challenged by prominent United Methodist layman and educator, James Laney, to invoke the "astonishing heritage" of John Wesley and empower their students to live "the richest, fullest lives possible" in Christian service during the 1998 International Association of Methodist-related Schools, Colleges, and Universities (IAMSCU) conference meeting in Grantham, England.

The challenge was made July 21 by Laney, former president of United Methodist-related Emory University in Atlanta and ambassador to South Korea.

Among the more than 200 participants at the event were Dr. Graham P. Matthews, associate vice president for church relations at Dillard University, and Kimberly Spikes, a senior at Dillard University.

Spikes, along with Dr. Matthews, was instrumental in arranging possible future student and faculty exchanges with other United Methodist-related colleges in England, Africa, India, South America and Mexico, said Roger Ireson, general secretary, United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, sponsor of the event.

The IAMSCU conference was held July 18-23 in the United Kingdom to celebrate 250 years of Methodism's commitment to education. The event commemorated the anniversary of the founding of Kingswood School by John Wesley in 1748.

Laney was one of several keynote speakers who addressed the conference. He described John Wesley as an innova-



**Roger Ireson (right), general secretary, UM General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, congratulates Dr. Graham P. Matthews, associate vice president for church relations at Dillard University, during the IAMSCU conference in England.**

tive and inclusive educator who allowed the Spirit of God to move through him to unleash the power of the Methodist movement in England. From there, he said, the revolution spread across the ocean to America and around the world where Methodists were at the forefront in establishing schools and colleges.

The purpose of IAMSCU is to develop partnerships and connections between Methodist institutions. IAMSCU was formed during the World Methodist Council meeting in Singapore in 1991 and the first meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro during the World Methodist Council meeting in 1996.

## Bishop Kelly to be honored at Gulfside 75th anniversary

Picture history repeating itself at the birthplace of the School of Christian Mission for the women of the Central Jurisdiction--Gulfside Assembly in Waveland, Miss. A large number of women dressed in white, bearing candles, march to the beach, singing "Walk In the Light." This spiritual journey actually took place at a School of Christian Mission in the 1940s.

On Saturday, October 31, in celebration of the 75th anniversary of Gulfside Assembly and to honor Bishop Leontine T.C. Kelly, retired, we are calling all women to be a part of a reenactment of that "Walk." Bishop Kelly is the only African American woman to be elected to the episcopacy of The United Methodist Church.

Rev. Cynthia Wilson-Felder, known as "the songbird of Africa University," will bring the music. A native of New



**Bishop Leontine Kelly**

Orleans, Wilson-Felder was the first African American director of music at The UMC's General Conference in 1996.

Each woman attending is asked to contribute \$100 to the mission and ministry of Gulfside. The entire weekend will be filled with a celebration of the Spirit through prayer, worship, workshops, music, picnics and fun. Many activities are planned for children.

A large crowd is expected making early reservations necessary. Housing is available at Gulfside or at the Waveland Holiday Inn (800-525-6676) until September 30.

For further information and registration, contact Shondel B. Dawson at (228) 467-5252 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

The School of Christian Mission for women of the Central Jurisdiction started at Gulfside in 1926.

## New Orleans workshop will feature 'songbird' Wilson-Felder

Before going to the 75th Anniversary Celebration at Gulfside Assembly in Waveland, Miss. Oct. 31 where she will be performing, Rev. Cynthia Wilson-Felder will stop in New Orleans to lead a music workshop entitled "To Serve This Present Age" at Cornerstone UMC. With a voice range of three-and-a-half octaves, Wilson-Felder, associate pastor of Music and Worship at Ben Hill UMC in Atlanta, is known as "the songbird of Africa University."

The workshop, to be held Friday, Oct. 30 from 6-9 p.m., will focus on blended

and contemporary styles of worship. It is being coordinated by Barbara L. Murray, New Orleans District missionary.

Wilson-Felder is a graduate of Dillard University in New Orleans. A native of New Orleans, she began performing on weekly radio shows in New Orleans with her five brothers. She was the musical leader for Louisiana's Vision 2000 conference at Dillard University in 1995.

Admission is \$5 in advance, \$10 at the door. Contact Murray at (504) 488-5430 for ticket information. Cornerstone UMC is located at 5276 Bullard Ave., New Orleans.

## Seminary scholarships available

If you are currently attending seminary or will be enrolling soon, there are scholarships available. The Louisiana Conference Board of Ordained Ministry currently has three different scholarship funds that need to be put to good use.

The basic requirements for all scholarships include the following:

- + must be enrolled in candidacy program, currently enrolled in school
- + if you have been attending seminary

or course of study for at least one semester, you must have a 2.0 G.P.A. or its equivalent

+ must have a recommendation from your district superintendent.

To apply for one of these scholarships, which are available immediately, contact Rev. Mark Bray, P.O. Box 680, Bunkie, LA 71322; phone (318) 346-2764; fax 346-9545; or e-mail: mabray@kriicket.net.

## New booklet explains Book of Discipline

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — It's been said that a good United Methodist has the Bible under one arm and the *Book of Discipline* under the other.

But for many church members the daunting *Book of Discipline* is like a phone book or encyclopedia--you don't read it until you need it.

To help United Methodists--clergy and laity--become more familiar with it, "A Brief Introduction to the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church" has been produced by Discipleship Resources, the publishing arm of the churchwide Board of

Discipleship.

Written in plain language, the booklet addresses how to use the *Discipline* as a tool for ministry. It explains how the book is developed, organized and changed, and where it should be used within the church. The new booklet may be used individually or in group study and exploration.

"A Brief Introduction to the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church" (order #DR243) is available from Discipleship Resources in sets of 10 (\$19.95 per set). Phone: 1-800-685-4370; online: <http://www.discipleshipresources.org>

**Dancing on the Web 2 --  
The Second Step  
Satellite Teleconference  
(featuring website construction)**

**Tuesday, Sept. 22  
12:30-2 p.m. (CT)  
\$15 per person  
Call (212) 870-2402 to sign up.**

Are you the recipient of one or more of these badges and a member of a United Methodist Church?

If so, please fill out the information below, detach and mail to the address listed below.

|                                                                                                              |        |        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Name first                                                                                                   | middle | last   |
| Address street/p.o. box                                                                                      |        |        |
| City                                                                                                         | State  | Zip    |
| Phone (home)                                                                                                 |        | (work) |
| E-mail                                                                                                       |        |        |
| Mail to:                                                                                                     |        |        |
| Director, Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting<br>P.O. Box 860<br>Nashville, Tennessee 37202-0860 |        |        |







# Louisiana

CONFERENCE *edition*

Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
225.346.1646  
/225.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

018000

Send PS Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

Vol 15 No 20 ■ September 18, 1998

## ¿Campo de sueños? ¡NO! La realidad de Voluntarios en Mision

by Rev. Larry D. Norman  
Director, Louisiana VIM

*Field of dreams? (picture right) No! Volunteers in Mission realities.* I have just returned from a fact-finding trip with other VIM leaders to Ahuachapan and San Salvador in El Salvador where we saw some remarkable results from past VIM projects and made some exciting plans for future VIM dream work.

Pastors Juan Francisco Mayorga Soliz and Professor José Domingo Morán had asked VIM leadership from the Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma Conferences to discover with them the possibilities of expanding local church facilities in these two cities. Soliz is pastor of a new congregation--*Nueva Jerusalem* (New Jerusalem)--in Ahuachapan and Morán is presently pastor of a New Jerusalem satellite church five miles away.

After construction of a new building in Ahuachapan was completed by VIM teams from the South Central Jurisdiction last year, the congregation has grown rapidly in number. Because of distance and poor public transportation, a satellite congregation was begun about five miles away in the Colonia Alta Mira section of town. This satellite congregation has already grown to over forty members and is hoping to construct a suitable building to continue its ministry and growth in this promising area of the city. When completed, it will be called "*El Roca Eterna*," The Eternal Rock. Until then, the congregation worships in an already too small rented building.

The congregation in San Salvador, the capital city of El Salvador, is presently meeting in a leased open-air space--originally intended to be a bar--and wants to build in a nearby neighborhood closer to the center of its outreach area in that section of town. Pastor Marino Chacón Vicente heads this San Salvador congregation called *Metodista Vida Nueva* (New Life).

When asked why these Methodist congregations in El Salvador were growing so rapidly, Pastors Soliz and Morán responded quickly with an answer that will be of particular interest to Louisiana United Methodists: "Our growth is because of our love for Jesus, our study



The field of dreams in El Salvador which will one day be the site of *El Roca Eterna*.

Photos by Larry Norman

of "*Discipulado*" (DISCIPLE Bible Study) and because we go door-to-door in the neighborhoods where our churches are located asking how we can minister to our neighbors." (I asked them if a fellow named Solomon had ever visited there.)

While in El Salvador the fact-finding team toured location possibilities and selected possible sites for the new churches. If dreams come true, *El Roca Eterna* will be located on top of a breezy hill overlooking a beautiful river valley, adjacent to a busy and crowded neighborhood where its pastor and most of its congregation live. *Vida Nueva* will be perched on a hilltop presiding over a much populated suburb of San Salvador. This property is on the edge of a city park equipped with a basketball court and a large, shady picnic area which can serve as an extended meeting area for the congregation.

Louisiana VIM will be joining the Oklahoma and Texas Conferences in



El Salvadorian pastors and their families discuss plans for *Vida Nueva* with members of the U.S. VIM team at the church's proposed site.

bringing these dream church facilities into reality. Louisiana's first VIM construction work team to Ahuachapan is scheduled for May 22-30, 1999. Gordon "Buddy" Fenzel of Henning UMC in Sulphur will lead that team. In the fall, a construction team will participate in the building of the new church facility in San Salvador. Dates will be scheduled soon for this work team. Costs for participation in these teams will be approximately \$800, which will include airfare, lodging, meals, land transportation and fees. Each team will be asked to raise \$2,500 toward material costs for the construction.

Louisiana Volunteers in Mission is dedicated to helping United Methodists and persons from other denominations experience missions on a short-term basis. It is mission at personal expense of your money, your time, your knowledge and your spiritual and physical labor. There is a place for all to serve: individuals, couples, singles, church and District teams. VIM is for those who believe that God can use them to make a Christian Difference in a world that needs that difference so desperately. To be a part of Louisiana VIM's El Salvador efforts, our many other mission work team opportunities, or to find out more about Louisiana VIM, please call me at (888) 239-5286 or (225) 346-1646.

*Thank you,  
Louisiana Conference*

Dear Bishop Solomon,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

I write to thank you and the members of the Louisiana Conference for the shipment of sneakers. We received the sneakers during the month of June. The Southeastern region of our Conference has been designated to receive these sneakers. This region is one of the most neglected in terms of receiving relief supplies. This area was virtually inaccessible (due to pre-existing bad roads) during the war. Therefore, warring factions located in these areas took full advantage of this isolated location by engaging in aggressive looting of homes, schools, clinics, and hospitals. People who remained in the Southeastern area throughout the war are without clothing and shoes. I myself made a trip there and cried as I saw their condition. You can imagine that it is difficult to see people in need of clothes, shoes, and food and to be unable to immediately assist. I am grateful that the Louisiana Conference was able to assist God's people in their time of need. I join the people of the Southeast in thanking you for your efforts.

May the peace of Christ be with you as you continue to seek ways to serve humanity in His name.

Yours In Christ,

*Arthur F. Kulah*

Rev. Dr. Arthur F. Kulah  
Resident Bishop  
Liberia Annual Conference  
Monrovia, Liberia

## INSIDE ...

- 2 Memoirs from Africa
- 3 Methodist Children's Home
- 4 Acadiana District News
- 5 Alexandria District News
- 6 Baton Rouge District News
- 7 Interfaith Shalom Zone





Carl Rhoads

## Being and Doing

### 'Chasing History'



**Editors Note:** Bishop Dan Solomon has invited key staff leaders in the Louisiana Conference to be guest columnists for "Being and Doing" for the past few issues. His column will return in the next issue.

**by Carl Rhoads**  
Director, Conference Office of Finance and Administration

Much of America has been riveted this summer to Mark McGwire's and Sammy Sosa's quest to break Roger Maris' 61 home run record. Being a baseball fanatic, I have been interested in how the media has chronicled this event. For example, each day the newspapers have printed a graphic with the heading "Chasing History." The depiction of McGwire, Sosa and Maris presents the number of home runs they have hit and the number of games they have played. This allows the reader to conclude that these modern sluggers are either so many home runs ahead or behind Roger Maris at this same point in his 1961 record-breaking year.

There is something fascinating about a gauge, which lets us know where we are in a quest, whether it is breaking a home run record, or in measuring our missionary efforts. Each month the Treasurer's Office of the Annual Conference produces a document which depicts where we are as a Conference in reaching 100 percent of our giving to others through our apportionments. At the end of August (66.67 percent of the year), the

churches of the Louisiana Conference had raised 58.61 percent of its giving goal. This is 3.03 percent higher than the same period in 1997, a year in which 94.13 percent of the apportioned goal was raised. If this pace is maintained during the last months of this year, our conference can move its giving to 97 percent of our goal.

On Sept. 30, 75 percent of this year will be concluded. This provides an excellent opportunity to check your church's pace toward 100 percent of its goal. If you are at 75 percent or better, you are well on your way to meeting the needs of many who are counting on us. If you are under this mark, there is still time to step up the pace. That is part of the fascination of a gauge. It enables us to see where we are on the quest and how far we have to go.

In a year in which history has been made by at least one person breaking a 37-year-old home run record, how much more important is it that, as Louisiana United Methodists, we break our giving record? Now is the time to "step to the plate," and do our part for the team. Our missionary giving brings a message of hope into the lives of thousands of children, youth and adults.

## Memoirs from Africa:

### We can provide Hope for the Children

*In July, the six-member Louisiana Conference Tennis Shoe Delivery Team visited Angola to place on the feet of children in Africa tennis shoes collected at the Annual Conference Special Session on Children in Need last October. The LUM Review is featuring each team member's account of the trip. This is Linda Boswell's heartfelt reflection from that journey.*

**by Linda Boswell**  
Acadiana District Missioner

Delivering tennis shoes was our primary goal as we traveled to Africa in July. However, I thought often of my next job—to raise funds for our Hope for the Children of Africa Miracle Night. There were many times when my thoughts were filled with doubts about what we could possibly do for these thousands—perhaps millions—of children who seem trapped in a truly hopeless situation. Half of the population on the continent of Africa are children under the age of fifteen.

The first morning in the city of Luanda—the capital of Angola—we were driven in our van across the city past shacks, shanties and destroyed car bodies where an enormous population tries to make their homes. There were children everywhere. It was evident that the water lines had deteriorated, and there was no electricity, no garbage pick-up and no sewage disposal system. We saw children playing in holes in the ground filled with water from which they also drank. Later, we learned that there was a large group of children living in this area in underground drains or caves and under bridges in the city. Many of these street children have been separated from their families while fleeing from war.

The schools in Angola had been closed for some time because the government didn't have the money to pay teachers. This was hard to accept, since Angola is one of the wealthiest countries in natural resources in Africa. The infrastructure has collapsed to the point that the basic government systems are destroyed and unable to provide water, housing, sanitation, monetary controls, health care, education, transportation, dependable electricity and the many daily things so necessary for life at the end of the twentieth century.

We drove further, following the coast of the Atlantic, with the last portion of our route leading us down a torn-up railroad track. Finally, we turned into the gates of a compound with that wonderful United Methodist Church cross and

flame on its welcoming sign. It was a school for children ages eight- to fifteen-years-old. They are taught the usual reading, writing and arithmetic as well as the Bible and Christian values. For half the day, they have classes in practical skills such as health care, sewing, sanitation, and things necessary to maintain life in such dire surroundings. They are fed three nutritious meals a day and have an on-site health clinic. Unfortunately, they can only accommodate eighty children in a neighborhood where thousands of children have little hope to grow to adulthood. We were told that some of these children walk many miles to get to school and are among those who live under, on or in the streets.

From there we went to another school for older children with more advanced



**Children at a UM school in Angola learn practical skills such as sewing.**

Photo by Ray Caraway

practical classes such as cooking, shoe repair and wood-working. At both places, the children were spotlessly clean. At the second school they were wearing medical jackets as

a sort of uniform. At both schools, the students were well disciplined and very glad to have us visit.

One of our interpreters was a graduate of these schools and had just returned to Angola after finishing his seminary degree from Illiff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. He has come back home to be a pastor to his people. We were told that many of the leaders who are trying to move Africa in the right directions are from Methodist school backgrounds.

I know from what I was able to see and hear first-hand that we can provide hope for the children of Africa. We have a huge and wonderful opportunity to save the lives of people who are so ready to make a difference in the world—theirs and ours. Churches, schools and health clinics operated by The United Methodist Church are providing help in countries where, often, we are their only hope to survive. Though there were many times when I felt that what I saw was hopeless, I could hardly wait to come home to work for what I believe can truly be Hope for the Children of Africa.

**"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matthew 19:14**



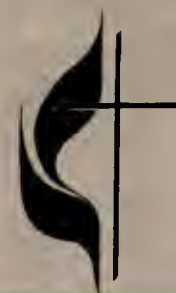
Photos by Ray Caraway





# METHODIST

## children's home



### Girls included in CAB program

In a significant development, Louisiana Methodist Children's Home has expanded the CAB (Changing Attitudes and Behavior) program to include six additional beds for girls. The new program will be housed in the reception center where the current boy's CAB program is located.

During the past two and a half years, the boy's program has seen remarkable success in assisting youth with severe behavior problems to adjust to life and prepare for a successful future. Five boys have graduated from that program thus far.

Terrel DeVille, CEO, says, "this additional step in our program will allow us to better serve some of the young women of Louisiana who desperately need this program."



The Reception Center houses the CAB program.



by Terrel J. DeVille  
President and CEO

My first Christmas at the Methodist Children's Home in Ruston was in 1968! Thirty years is a long time, but my memory and impressions are as fresh as though it happened last year.

Everything actually happened here two weeks before Christmas and was over one week before the actual holiday. This "early" celebration was necessary because the entire campus shut down the week before Christmas and the children either went home or to their sponsor's home for Christmas week.

One of my most vivid recollections was a dear friend of the Home from El Dorado, Ark., who, just before our celebration week, always delivered a stack of brand-new, crisp, dollar bills! Each year, the Superintendent handed out one to each child. Our friend started this in the 1950s and continued until his death in the 1970s.

On Monday afternoon of our celebration week each child and each staff person received a paper sack filled with fresh fruit and candy. On Wednesday evening, our chapel service was held.

### My first Christmas at the Home



The superintendent, Rev. Harry Ezell, read the Christmas story and we all sang a number of Christmas carols. The whole week was a special time.

Our big celebration occurred on Thursdays. Well in advance, each child made out a "wish list," using the Sears & Roebuck catalog. Each youth had a local church sponsor who selected up to five gifts to purchase and deliver. Often these gifts arrived just in time for the celebration on Thursdays.

On that magical evening, a special Christmas dinner was prepared in each house. Staff and their family were invited to eat with the youth and stay for the opening of gifts. Of course, a beautiful tree was part of the house celebration.

Following the meal and gifts, youth and staff were allowed to visit the other houses and see their decorations. For some brothers and sisters who were



Worship was part of the first Christmas at the Children's Home in Ruston.

here together, it was the only time they visited back and forth in the different cottages.

Perhaps of interest to our friends today is the fact that many of these same traditions carry on to the present. One thing is definitely different, no one arrives just in the nick of time with a stack of fresh, crisp dollar bills. That made a big impression on our kids. I never forgot it, either.

### Meier workshop focused on creating safe environment through Christ

Over 150 participants enjoyed a day with Dr. Paul Meier, M.D., medical director of New Life Clinics and Day Hospital in Richardson, Tex. Acknowledged as a pioneer in the integration of the physical aspects of man with the psychological and spiritual dimensions, Dr. Meier has taught at many universities and seminars throughout the world.

Dr. Meier highlighted information about the multiple causes of depression and strategies for avoiding burn-out. He focused on information from his recent book, **SAFE PLACES**, about the need to create an environment of comfort and security in a very

unsafe and often unfriendly world.

Dr. Meier and his wife were house parents at a children's home while he was in medical school and his understanding of challenges faced by Methodist Children's Home staff was appreciated by the audience. It was refreshing to hear a psychiatrist say, "with all the psychological tools available, only Jesus Christ provides ultimate security and comfort for kids in crisis."

Among the participants were MCH staff, United Methodist clergy, social workers and lay persons interested in personal and spiritual growth.



Dr. Paul Meier is the author of *Safe Places*.

## Children's Home Wish List

- Louisiana Methodist Children's Home youth range in ages 13-17 years. Clothing items generally need to be either large or extra large. The Home is also in need of non-perishable canned food items. Because of the amount of food that must be prepared on a daily basis, large cans are easier to use.
- Basketballs
- Blank VCR Tapes
- Gloves
- Sweat Shirts
- Radios
- Sleeping Bags
- Brushes
- Conditioners

- Camping Supplies
- Tennis Shoes
- Hair Dryers
- Shaving Cream
- Mountain Bikes
- Outdoor Toys
- Baseball Gloves
- Sweat Pants
- Checkers
- T-Shirts
- Combs
- Moisture Creams
- Dominoes

- Windbreakers
- Curlers

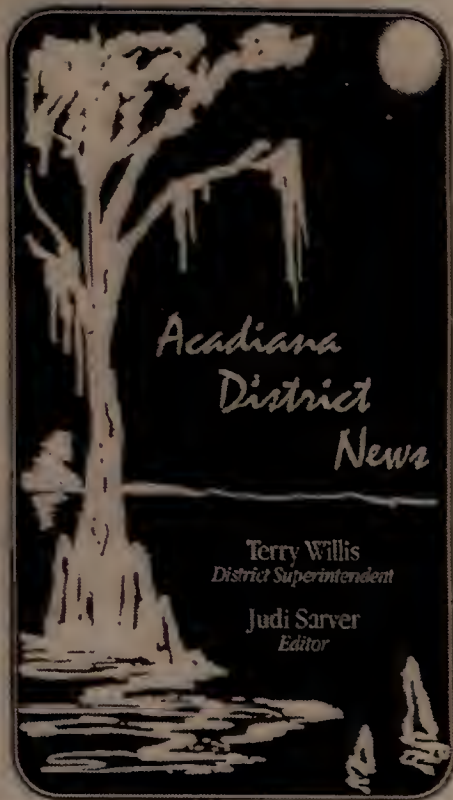


- Deodorant

- Badminton
- Cards
- Large Sleep Shirts
- Shorts
- Cameras
- Socks
- Toothpaste
- Softballs
- Beach Towels
- Jackets
- Safety Razors
- Movies (rated G or PG)
- Throw Blankets

- Tooth Brushes
- Footballs
- Board Games
- Jeans
- Toiletries
- Volleyballs
- Stuffed Animals
- Books
- Shampoo
- Cooking Utensils
- Food
- (as mentioned left)





850 Kaliste Saloom Road  
Suite 217  
Lafayette, LA 70508  
(318) 235-0080

## Acadiana churches help students in need

by Judi Sarver

### District Communication Advisor

With the opening of schools, several Acadiana District churches found ways to be of service to needy students.

Asbury UMC, Lafayette, has constantly maintained the Needy Nook. This ministry of the church has provided clothing to needy children in Lafayette for years. This year, the Lafayette Parish School Board instituted a school uniform policy; an overwhelming need for approved school uniforms arose. With hard work, dedication and donations, Asbury's Needy Nook was able to provide needed uniforms (at a cost of \$7,000) to 103 elementary students.

The UMYF of Louisiana Memorial UMC, Opelousas, collected school supplies for students in St. Landry parish who were unable to purchase them. This was the August service project for the youth.

Sunshine Soles was the name of the drive conducted by First UMC, Houma. This project collected funds to purchase new school shoes for needy children in their area. This was a wonderful way to put their hearts and souls into another's heart and sole.



Once again the generosity of the people of the Acadiana District has been shown to those who are less fortunate, particularly, children in need.

## From the district lay leader Bishop's visit among Acadiana District's exciting upcoming events

by Jane Blackwell

### Acadiana District Lay Leader

This is a wonderful time to be a United Methodist in the Acadiana District! There are so many good things happening.

Our District has a variety of special events coming up in the next months. Bishop Dan Solomon will be coming to our district twice to have "Conversations with the Bishop" visits. Because our district is so large, one will be held on Sunday, Sept. 27th at 7 p.m., at Northwood UMC for congregations in the northern end of the district; the other will be Thursday, Oct. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Berwick UMC for the southern churches. We are excited about this opportunity for more of our people to meet the bishop.

Another big event is our "All Saints Talent Show" Nov. 1 at 3 p.m. at First UMC, New Iberia. This event will feature talent from all over the district; some from last year are coming back by popular demand. As always, the proceeds will go to the Daughenbaugh-Matheny Scholarship Fund which provides financial assistance for students attending Centenary College and Dillard University.

Our busy District Ministry Team has either visited, or scheduled Discerning Gifts Visits, with over half the churches in the district. We have had a good response from both the ministers and the



Jane Blackwell

congregations of the churches, and it's been a wonderful way to get to know more of our brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray we are helping congregations to understand the gifts their church possesses and ways to make their church a more giving and caring one. We have also begun to go back to churches for a second planning visit.

Our churches are getting involved in "Mission in Motion" and are preparing flood buckets for the truck to pick up. It will be in our district the first week in October. Sarah Schoeffler is leading this project, and she can tell you when the truck will be in your town. Nancy Youngblood is working hard to coordinate the Disciple Bible Study classes from church to church. As we visit churches, it's wonderful to hear how they are working together.

Led by interim district missionary, Linda Boswell, the District Ministry Team is going on a fellowship, mission and planning retreat October 2-3 at Sager-Brown in Baldwin. The search for a permanent district missionary has begun. Anyone interested in applying, please contact Linda Boswell, District Superintendent Terry Willis or me.

The Acadiana District is an exciting and busy place to be and we thank God for the opportunities awaiting us all.

## Mission in Motion coming to Acadiana District

The Mission in Motion truck, which has been traveling around the conference collecting supplies for the UMCOR Depot in Baldwin, will be in the Acadiana District in October to receive flood bucket supplies.

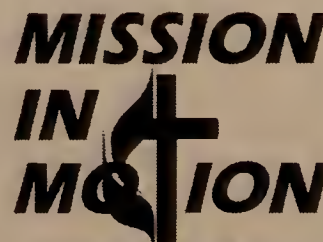
Please begin gathering the following items needed for each flood bucket:

- 5 gal. bucket with lid
- bleach ( 1/2 gal. )
- scouring pads (5 per box)
- scrub brush (O-Cedar 2000)
- cleaning towels (easy-wipe, reusable, 18)
- sponges (Niagara, assorted sizes, 7 pack)
- detergent (Ultra Cheer, 50 oz.)
- household cleaner (Lysol concentrate, 12 oz.)
- disinfectant
- dish soap (Ultra Dawn, 28 oz.)
- clothes pins (50 pack)
- clothesline (Artic Cotton, 100 ft.)
- dust masks (Bench top, 5 pack)
- latex gloves (Premier, 2 pr.)
- work gloves (Wells-Lamont, canvas dot, 1 pr.)
- trash bags (Glad Tie-39 gal. 24 bag roll)
- insect spray (14 oz.)
- air freshener (9 oz.)

Generic supplies may be used in the quantity specified. All liquids must be in plastic bottles. All items must fit into the plastic bucket and be sealed with a lid. Buckets may be packed or you may just provide the items.

The following dates and locations have been tentatively set for the truck and trailer. Please check with your church to reconfirm them:

|                |              |                       |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Sept. 28, 29 — | Oct. 5, 6 LA | Memorial, Opelousas   |
| Oct. 6 —       | Oct. 12, 13  | FUMC, Lafayette       |
| Oct. 13 —      | Oct. 19, 20  | Asbury UMC, Lafayette |
| Oct. 20 —      | Oct. 26, 27  | Berwick FUMC          |
| Oct. 27 —      | Nov. 2, 3    | Thibodeaux FUMC       |
| Nov. 3 —       | Nov. 9, 10   | Houma FUMC            |



LOUISIANA UNITED METHODIST  
GLOBAL DISASTER RELIEF

## Immanuel UMC: Acadiana District's newest church and minister

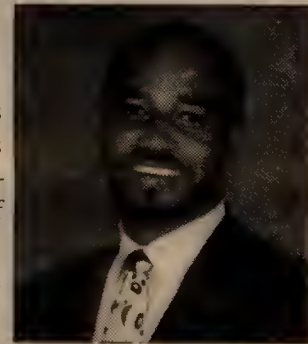
Immanuel UMC, Lafayette, is the newest church in the Acadiana District. The congregation moved into its new sanctuary about a year ago. Prior to that time they had been the Mallalieu UMC.

Mallalieu was founded in 1884 and became a vital part of the community. Many prominent citizens received their early education through this church. In a time when no formal education was available to blacks, Mallalieu provided a school for aspiring young scholars. A parcel of land in Lafayette donated by Governor Alexander Mouton to be used by and for the church served as the first location of Mallalieu.

In October of 1962, the nearly eighty-year-old church was relocated and continued to serve the needs of the congregation and the community.

In 1993, it was determined that a new location and building was needed so the congregation took on a new name (Immanuel) and a new location in Lafayette.

In August, Rev. Rodney D. Wooten was appointed as the new minister of Immanuel. Wooten, a native of Los Angeles, received his



Rev. Rodney Wooten

education from Lane College and Memphis Theological Seminary. He also played professional basketball for three years in Europe. He and his wife, Darlene, a licensed marital and family therapist, have one son, Monterio, who is 16.

Wooten has been pastor of Graham Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Savannah, Tenn. During the course of his ministry in Los Angeles, Wooten created the Southern California Christian Athletic Conference and he promoted and directed a weekly Christian radio show. He also developed an after-school children's ministry and a recreation and creativity class for senior citizens.

The membership of Immanuel has a keen sense of their heritage and are determined to grow forward under new leadership in their new place of worship.

## Got news?

Please send stories and pictures about your church to:

Judi Sarver  
305 Chastant Boulevard  
Lafayette, LA 70508 or  
E-mail: bd21226@aol.com





# Methodist Hospital

Pendleton Memorial Methodist Hospital • 5620 Read Boulevard • New Orleans, Louisiana 70127 • (504) 244-5100

*Conceived over a*  
**Cup of Coffee**

*and a slice of*

**Apple Pie**

## *A Constant* **VISION** *Toward the* **FUTURE**

**Vision is of God. A vision comes in advance of any task well done. – Katherine Logan**

**H**ard work, dedication, caring, commitment, concern—those are the ingredients of success for Pendleton Memorial Methodist Hospital. But it is vision that best describes the 30-year history of our facility, which has a reputation as a leader in the healthcare field.

For Methodist Hospital, the vision began—as most New Orleans activities do—in the kitchen. Methodist Hospital was conceived over apple pie and coffee in the kitchen of the Gentilly Methodist Church during the men's group meeting.

The founding fathers, members of the Gentilly Methodist Church, envisioned a compassionate, caring, Christian-based hospital to accommodate the needs of the community. The vision, dreams and imagination of the founders nourished the planning, development, growth and expansion over the years. Today, as the changes and transformation of the healthcare industry continue to pose new challenges and new opportunities, it is constant vision to the future that will enhance our reputation and keep those dreams alive.

Although strategic planning was not a defined element of the founding fathers' first blueprints for Methodist Hospital, their foresight in acquiring a large tract of land; their philosophy of courtesy, concern, kindness and compassion; and their belief in the economic development of East New Orleans provided a strong base for continued growth and development.

By the time Methodist Hospital was ready to expand its original four-story building to six floors in 1976, strategic planning was recognized as an essential element for the future. Today, with the support and encouragement of the Hospital's management, administration, medical staff and board, planning for the future is a process that we focus on and refine on a daily basis.

Each year, Methodist Hospital matures, growing stronger and more prominent in the community. That prominence as a respected healthcare leader in New Orleans and beyond is attributed to many factors.



*Methodist Hospital Board Members (from left) M. Kenneth Schor; Lloyd J. Gueringer, Jr., M.D.; Frederick C. Young, Jr.; and Charles E. McHale, Jr.*

The wisdom of the original board to negotiate our spacious, convenient location has given us the opportunity to expand as a comprehensive campus of integrated services without losing sight of accessibility and environmentally pleasing surroundings.

The quality and commitment of our medical staff, many of whom are among the original staff, set the direction for improving clinical care by driving the administration and

board to look at newer, more sophisticated modalities of treatment for the best and most advanced methods of patient care.

The dedication and commitment of Methodist Hospital employees are unparalleled. Recognized for their high level of technical skills, Methodist employees go the extra mile when it comes to the soft side of medicine—caring, concern, comfort and a gentle manner in every situation.

The Methodist Health System Foundation Board and Pendleton Memorial Methodist Hospital Board contribute their time, talent and experience to ensure that the hospital and its affiliated services operate in a wise and efficient manner. They also provide the guidance and direction that keep us mindful of our commitment to the community.

The hospital Auxiliary, volunteers and benefactors provide additional resources that give us the flexibility and opportunity to offer and provide more services as a non-profit facility.

This United Methodist Review supplement highlights Methodist Hospital's three decades of service. We invite you to join our 30th Anniversary of Caring and share the dreams and visions of the past that are not only reality today but the foundation for further vision.

*Sincerely,*

Frederick C. Young, Jr., President  
Methodist Health System Foundation, Inc.  
Pendleton Memorial Methodist Hospital

Lloyd J. Gueringer, Jr., M.D.  
Chief of the Medical Staff  
Pendleton Memorial Methodist Hospital

Charles E. McHale, Jr.  
Chairman of the Board  
Pendleton Memorial Methodist Hospital

M. Kenneth Schor  
Chairman of the Board  
Methodist Health System Foundation, Inc.

(Continued on back)



# Thirty Years of Progress

# Methodist Hospital Begins Its 30th Anniversary Celebration



Methodist Hospital began as a four story, 181-bed hospital...



...and is now a comprehensive healthcare campus with the six-floor, 317-bed hospital as its focal point.

**T**here was an air of excitement and anticipation when Methodist Hospital first opened its front doors to patient care on September 25, 1968. Over the years those doors have been replaced, redesigned and relocated but never closed. Just as a steady stream of patients, visitors, physicians, volunteers, employees and members of the community have flowed through those doors, Methodist has continued to progress and grow. From its early and basic beginnings 30 years ago, Methodist has developed into a comprehensive campus with a reputation as one of South Louisiana's leading healthcare institutions.

The following highlights of three decades of accomplishments illustrate the hospital's ongoing, progressive success. A review of the 1993-97 highlights, the five-year period since the last milestone anniversary, demonstrates Methodist's ability to keep pace with one of the most rapid periods of change in the medical field.

## Historical Highlights

### 1967

Methodist Hospital begins construction on 23 acres of undeveloped "swamp" land in East New Orleans.

### 1968

The first patient is admitted and the first baby is born several hours later on September 25. Governor John McKeithen attends the hospital's consecration services on October 10.

### 1969

The first Intensive Care Unit opens.

### 1970

Methodist Hospital Auxiliary members donate \$14,200 for the purchase of an advanced heart-lung machine and a new surgical table. Respiratory Therapy becomes the new name for the Inhalation Therapy Department.

### 1971

A 181-bed hospital, Methodist expands further with the opening of a Coronary Care Unit and Department of Cardiac Studies. The first Auxiliary Fashion Show is held with proceeds directed to a building fund.

### 1972

The Pathology, Radiology and Cardiac Studies Departments are expanded and the number of physicians on the medical staff increases by 25 percent.

### 1973

The Surgical Lounge is renovated to accommodate families awaiting news of their loved ones. The Auxiliary presents its first Methodist Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship. The board of directors announces plans for an expansion in response to unprecedented growth in East New Orleans.

### 1974

One of the city's first prenatal education programs opens at Methodist. Advanced ultrasound and telemetry equipment are installed.

### 1975

The first phase of a 155-bed and ancillary service expansion program begins. Methodist will add two patient and administrative floors to the main hospital. The first computerized pulmonary function analyzer in the city is introduced at Methodist.

### 1976

The Emergency Department expands, three new surgical suites are opened and support services are increased.

### 1977

A Special Procedures Room is established to accommodate the increasing number of cardiac catheterizations.

### 1978

The Radiology Department offers the most sophisticated diagnostic technique available with the installation of an advanced computerized tomographic (CT) scanner.

### 1979

In honor of founding father Pendleton Lehde, the hospital is rededicated as Pendleton Memorial Methodist Hospital.

### 1980

Additional labor rooms are added to meet the needs of a young and growing community.

### 1981

For the first time in its history, Methodist Hospital offers occupational therapy services. The nursery is enlarged.

### 1982

In honor of Reverend John Koelemay's contributions to Methodist Hospital and in recognition of his retirement, the fourth floor chapel is named the Koelemay Chapel.

### 1983

The hospital celebrates its 15th year of service with a re-commitment to preserve the health and wellness of its community. The hospital enters the communication age by installing a direct dial system allowing all telephone calls from outside the hospital to be transmitted directly to a department or patient room. The first issue of the hospital's internal newsletter, INSIDE METHODIST, is published in October; the original employee publication, The

PACEMAKER, is re-designed as a quarterly magazine and distributed to the community.

### 1984

The World's Fair comes to New Orleans and Methodist Hospital is selected as the on-site provider of first aid and minor emergency healthcare.

### 1985

Methodist Home Health Services is established as one of the first such hospital-based programs in the area. Methodist Hospital is one of 13 not-for-profit hospitals in Louisiana and Mississippi selected to form a new corporation, Voluntary Hospitals of America Gulf States.

### 1986

The Methodist Psychiatric Pavilion admits its first patients and the hospital's Master Development Plan is approved by the board of directors. A formal Patient Satisfaction Program is implemented.

### 1987

A 15-bed Skilled Nursing Unit is developed to care for the specialized needs of the elderly. The Methodist Ambulatory Surgery Center opens and a mobile Magnetic Resonance Imaging Unit is offered to hospital patients.



### 1988

The area's only freestanding specialized treatment center, the Methodist Cancer Center, is opened. The Methodist Occupational and Industrial Medicine Clinic is established in response to the growing East New Orleans business and industrial community. Methodist spearheads a project to clean, landscape and maintain a 13-acre interchange at Read Boulevard and I-10. The Senior Focus program addressing the needs of adults age 55 and over is introduced.

### 1989

The first open-heart surgery at Methodist Hospital is performed, completing Methodist's comprehensive cardiac care and rehabilitation program.

### 1990

Methodist Hospital gains national and state recognition with its selection as one of three hospitals in Louisiana to evaluate heart patients in the Third International Study of Infarct Survival. Methodist Cancer Center is selected by the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project and the National Cancer Institute to participate in a special project to recruit minority patients for trial studies.

### 1991

Methodist Ambulatory Surgery Center introduces advanced lithotripsy equipment to eliminate kidney stones without surgery. The Physicians Medical Plaza opens to accommodate a growing medical staff.

### 1992

A \$21 million Master Development Plan including the construction and development of a 131,000 square foot East Tower addition to the main hospital is announced.

### 1993

The Outpatient Diagnostic Center opens to enhance patient care, comfort and convenience. The Process Improvement Department is established and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) training is initiated for all employees. A highly successful endowment campaign far exceeds its \$10 million goal.

Vice President of Medical Affairs and Medical Director of Nutrition Support and Home Health Services Albert Barrocas, MD, brings national attention to Methodist Hospital through his focus on nutritional needs of the elderly. Central Services Processing Technicians are among the first in Louisiana to receive registration and certification from the International Association of Healthcare Central Services Material Management. Mammography imaging services are accredited by the American College of Radiology. The Methodist Psychiatric Pavilion opens an innovative evening outpatient program offering chemical dependency treatment on an intensive basis.

### 1994

The *New Face of Healthcare* image campaign is launched to introduce

the expansion project, the hospital's emphasis on advanced technology and to reinforce Methodist's continued commitment to the community. The Advanced Surgery Center opens to provide training and support services for physicians and nurses involved in the expanding field of laser technology. Methodist Health System purchases the Medical Center of East New Orleans.

SportsCare and the Education Department team up with the Plaza Shopping Center to form Plaza Pacers, an informal mall walkers association featuring a once-a-month health station offering information, resources and screenings. Coronary artery stenting, a non-surgical alternative to emergency coronary artery bypass adds another dimension to the hospital's comprehensive cardiac program.

Cardiovascular surgeon and Methodist Medical Staff member John Breaux, MD, is the first physician in the southeast United States to perform thoracic lung lobectomy. Methodist Cancer Center introduces the Reach to Recovery program for women undergoing breast cancer surgery and treatment. The Nutrition Institute of Louisiana develops the Healthy, Handy Hints brochure which offers a guide to sensible eating by using hands and fingers as measuring tools and nutrition reminders. The Methodist Psychiatric Pavilion opens a day patient program in Metairie and establishes Louisiana's first Gamblers' Crisis Resources Hotline. The Practice Management Department is formed to coordinate the comprehensive management of physicians offices and Methodist clinics.

### 1995

The healthcare campus changes dramatically with the opening of the East Tower to include a 29-bed intensive care unit; new facilities for physical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, and admitting; newly expanded areas for the dining room, gift shop and lobby; and shelved space for future development.

The Methodist Health Alliance is introduced to coordinate the expanding managed care business. Methodist signs a memorandum of agreement with other leading non-profit hospitals to develop a community-based healthcare network in the greater New Orleans area. *Experience the New Methodist* advertising campaign is introduced.

Sleep Studies services are established to diagnose and assist those with sleep-related disorders. Telemetry is expanded and the new specialty area of hyperbaric medicine is introduced. The National Institutes of Health selected the Methodist Cancer Center to participate in four National Cancer Institute Chemoprevention Clinical Trials in the areas of breast cancer, prostate cancer, lung cancer and colorectal adenoma.

Methodist Behavioral Resources establishes Louisiana's first in-home psychiatric treatment program, In-Home Options. The Community Relations and Development Department initiates The Daffodil Tea as a joint fundraising effort with Overture to the Cultural Season. Proceeds benefit the Jonathan Nelson Cancer Fund and Overture's Arts Scholarship Program.

### 1996

The GEM (Going the Extra Mile) program is introduced to recognize and reward employees for emphasizing customer satisfaction. The Skilled Nursing Unit expands capacity from 24 to 33 beds. The Invision computer system is installed, enabling clinical areas to interface with other departments. A Gero-Psych Unit opens, providing psychiatric care to Medicare-eligible patients who also have medical problems. The Methodist Health System Foundation acquires the Outpatient Diagnostic Center at the Physicians Medical Plaza.

### 1997

The Heart Center of East New Orleans opens. Methodist Hospital and East New Orleans cardiologists developed the center to offer an innovative, outpatient diagnostic cardiac catheterization laboratory, complementing the hospital's comprehensive range of therapeutic cardiac care.

SurgiLite, an alternative weight loss program featuring gastric bypass surgery for the severely obese, is introduced. The Institute for the Treatment of Diabetes and Metabolic Management strengthens Methodist's diabetic care program with comprehensive, coordinated patient care.

The Radiology Department increases diagnostic capabilities with the introduction of Advanced Breast Biopsy Instrumentation, an outpatient procedure which eliminates the incision and anesthesia usually required for a breast biopsy. The Endoscopy Unit expands and relocates to a state-of-the-art facility emphasizing patient comfort and privacy. Katrina Bui is named the first Vietnamese Community Outreach Liaison in response to the growing Vietnamese community in Methodist's service area.

WorkWise, an enhanced package of outpatient services with immediate access to a network of providers, is introduced to the East New Orleans business and industrial community. Private Support Services is implemented to provide the personal assistance individuals need to remain independent and in their own homes.

### 1998

The Pulmonary Rehabilitation Center opens to address quality of life issues for those with chronic lung diseases. Same Day Surgery relocates to an expanded area to include nine patient prep rooms, additional bathrooms, a larger nurses' station, a wellness/waiting area, and a private family consultation area.

The Hyperbaric Medicine Unit changes its name to TotalWound Treatment Center with an emphasis on a full range of therapies for the treatment of hard-to-heal wounds.

A newly renovated and expanded Emergency Medicine Center offers the most comprehensive emergency care for those served.





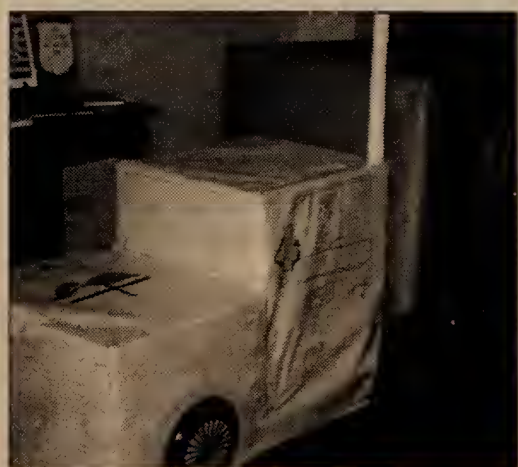
## Mission in Motion traveled Alexandria District in August

During August, the Mission in Motion trailer made its way through the Alexandria District. Many of our churches made very generous contributions and we were able to fulfill our goals for helping to replenish the UMCOR Depot at the Sager-Brown facility in Baldwin.

The trailer, which has been traveling around the Louisiana Conference since February, made its first stop in Natchitoches at First UMC August 2-9. From there it moved to Nolley Memorial UMC in Jena from August 10-18. It finished the tour of the Alexandria District at First UMC, Alexandria, August 19-30 before being unloaded at the UMCOR Depot.

Some of the churches in the Alexandria District chose specific ways to collect items: the Lecompte church filled flood buckets; Trinity, Alexandria, made children's disaster kits and personal disaster kits for adults; Pineville First built a "Mission in Motion truck" for use as a collection point for the personal care items they collected (see attached photos).

We are grateful to all the churches in the Alexandria District for the great job that they did in helping to provide relief for disaster victims. Also, a special thank-you goes to Elzie Gauntz, Alexandria District Mission in Motion coordinator, for the excellent job he did leading and coordinating our efforts as the trailer itinerated across the district. Thanks to each of you for excellent way you responded as our district engaged in this very exciting ministry in preparation to better serve people who are the victims of disasters as they occur around the globe.



First UMC, Pineville, built a MIM truck out of boxes to use as a collection point for the items they contributed to the real MIM truck.

## Trinity youth build play yard as summer project

The youth at Trinity UMC have been hard at work with their summer mission project. Led by Amy Willis, the group has held several fund raisers over the past few months to finance their mission project—a children's play yard.

Sunday, Aug. 2 through Thursday, Aug. 6, the youth, along with Pastor Gary Willis and other adult supervisors, worked day and night building the playground equipment and a fence around the play yard for security. Their workday began at 5:30 a.m. with breakfast provided by different church families. After a break from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., they returned for dinner, again provided by different church families, and worked on the project for several hours.

Late evenings were spent in devotional time and fun activities such as watching movies, playing games and even a swimming party at a church member's home. The youth spent the night at the church ready to begin the workday at 5:30 a.m.

The play yard was completed by Friday, August 7th in time for the younger children's summer activity, "Noah's Ark"—a one-day Bible school with all activities centered around Noah and the fascinating story of his calling by



Trinity youth work on a fence around the play yard they built.

God to build the ark.

These are just a few of the fellowship projects in the works as Trinity continues "Growing Hearts for God." The youth are very excited about this project and Trinity couldn't be more proud of this group of young people.

## Trinity's relaxed Blue Jean Service brings 'Rewarding Blessing'

by Dr. Thomas Hennigan  
First UMC, Natchitoches

August 9 marked the 29th week of the Blue Jeans Service started at First UMC, Natchitoches, last January as a new way to reach out to its community. The results are amazing.

Attendance has ranged from 65 to 155 participants per service with an average of 97 per service. Records indicate that 30 percent of those are "new" attendees. Eleven have chosen to become affiliated with the FUMC congregation.

Pastor Doug Cain explains, "This service is an outreach to potential church attendants who are inactive, curious and prefer a non-traditional religious worship service. It is an evangelism that reaches out to those we were not serving. The results have been a rewarding blessing."

In 1997, First UMC conducted a comprehensive community-church study to collect detailed demographic data regarding needs and resources. Dr. Ray Branton, a national church consultant, was employed to assist the congregation in final recommendations. On Jan. 25, the first Blue Jeans Service was held.

The service is conducted in the multipurpose Family Life Center each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Fifty-seven members are actively involved in the setup and delivery of the service under the leadership of Pastor Doug Cain and Special Services Coordinator Kathi Ickes.

Informal dress is the key to this more relaxed worship service. Blue jeans and sneakers are the uniform of choice; how-



Rev. Doug Cain leads "Children's Time."

ever, the atmosphere is receptive to diversified casual attire.

The Blue Jean motif is maintained through use of table coverings, valances and other decor. Traditional decorations, symbols and colors are accented for special days or seasons recognized and celebrated by the church.

A central feature of the service is the Blue Jean Band, including live instrumental and vocal music which incorporates contemporary and conventional styles. Visiting artists join the band in testimonial performances.

Computer graphics and video projection also are used to enhance the pastor's message.

Children's Time, conducted by Rev. Cain, provides the "little ones" with a tailored version of the day's sermon. A nursery also is maintained. Sunday School classes for all follow this service.

Ickes says, "People feel a part of this service because they can worship as they are. While certainly liturgically based, anyone, no matter where they are with their faith, can feel comfortable at Trinity's Blue Jean Service."

# Alexandria District News



2013 MacArthur Drive  
Bldg. 2, Suite 2  
Alexandria, LA 71301  
(318) 443-3213

**Dist. Superintendent**

Rev. Don Avery

**Dist. Communication Advisor**

Richard Bushnell

## Welcome, Richard!

We are delighted to announce that Richard Bushnell has agreed to serve as Alexandria District communication advisor.

Richard is the principal of Aiken E.S. Optional School, a member of First UMC, Alexandria and lives in Woodworth.

We welcome him to the District Ministry Team and know that he will be an immeasurable asset in the workings of the team.

Please welcome Richard and send your articles and pictures to him at:

195 Rand Road  
Woodworth, LA 71485  
(318) 442-0643



## Baton Rouge District News



5713 Superior Drive  
Suite A-1  
Baton Rouge, LA 70816  
(225) 296-0668

**Dr. Leslie Norris**

District Superintendent

**Hallique L. Dawson**

District Communication Advisor

### Our church family: The ministry involves all of us

by **Dr. Chris Andrews**

**Pastor, First UMC, Baton Rouge**

First Church is looking for persons who feel called to lead its ministry in 1999 and beyond as we share the historic moment of entering a new century. Men and women, youth, boys and girls share the ministry of First Church and help proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in many different ways.

Every year some leaders rotate out and make room for new persons with new ideas and energy. It may be time for you to step up and honor God's call by accepting a position of leadership in your church.

Perhaps you want to serve, but do not know where. Here are some suggestions to help you discern where your gifts might be best utilized:

**1) Passion**--What gets you excited just to talk about it? Maybe it is feeding the hungry, sharing the Gospel, coaching a new believer or a kid's baseball team. Jesus told us we are the salt of the earth, (Matthew 5:13). There are 14,000 industrial uses for salt; God has a ministry for you. Passion is the spark that lights the fuse.

**2) Proficiency**--What are you good at? A word of advice: Don't put God in a box, meaning, don't limit the ways God can use you. The founder of Kodak, George Eastman, was a bookkeeper. A cork salesman named King Gillette invented the safety razor. The son of Jesse, a shepherd boy, became a king. And don't worry about failure. If you're not failing, you're not growing.

**3) Where am I best suited to serve? With what ministry is my personality compatible?** This is an area where the ego can lead us into self deception. Ask the people closest to you where they think you should serve. The key to this process is to be proactive. Don't wait to be asked to serve. Determine where you would best fit and join God there.

## District Missioner's Digest: DMT recommends Catchins as resource

by **LaMarylis Cotton**

**District Missioner**

On Aug. 4, the Baton Rouge District Ministry Team met and put together 65 ditty bags full of resources to help Baton Rouge District churches fulfill the certification of "A Church For All God's Children."

At the same time, we heard a presentation by Sue Catchins, Education Ministry Team leader of our DMT, that left us all inspired to act immediately! Sue showed statistical information on the

causes of deaths and how they are related to adult "choices," which are trickling down to our children and youth, especially those age six to 22. The information was broken down by Louisiana's metro areas and compared to national figures.

The DMT is proud to recommend Sue to our churches as a speaking resource to help fulfill the criteria for "A Church for All God's Children" accreditation. A member of St. Francisville UMC, Sue has spent 15 years in a health-related vocation, five years as a high school teacher and now directs the school-based health centers in East Baton Rouge Parish. She also works for Louisiana State University Medical Center.

The information and resources for "A Church for All God's Children" will be given to your pastor at the end of September. Please plan to get started on this project as soon as you receive your materials so we can all qualify for recognition at Annual Conference 1999.



**Members of the Baton Rouge District Ministry Team assemble ditty bags to help churches become "A Church for All God's Children."**

## DMT issues call for volunteers

The Baton Rouge District is issuing a call for volunteer assistance. Several of our churches need help in some areas. Please pray about these requests (as I am praying while "issuing the call"). Allow the Lord to lead us as we minister in mission to those closest to us--our own United Methodist brothers and sisters in Christ in the Baton Rouge District.

We need:

### **52 PIANISTS**

One volunteer per week to play for Sunday Worship, must travel far.

### **ONE PIANIST**

One pianist to volunteer for every Sunday and choir rehearsal. Church has choir and director, but needs an accompanist.

### **A PIANO TEACHER**

A volunteer who would teach several members of a couple of congregations to play hymns. Lessons could be arranged to your schedule.

### **TWELVE SETS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEAM TEACHERS**

A team of four for each month in a

year, offering theme lessons. One member of the team would travel to teach each Sunday. This would involve "teaching" an assistant at the local church to eventually take over the elementary to middle high class.

### **MOVIE VIDEOS TO LEND**

Movies appropriate for children and youth to be checked out by local churches.

### **\$20 CASH DONATIONS**

Need \$20 donations to fund the mailing of school supplies already collected and boxed for children in the Congo.

### **SIX COUPLES TO MISSION TO LOCAL CHURCH**

Need six (or more) couples with teenagers or younger children to commit to six months as "missionaries" to a local Baton Rouge church to assist in programming and visitation as the church reaches into its neighborhood.

Please contact the district missioner at the District Office (296-0668) if you feel an urging from the Lord to volunteer in any of these areas. Many will be blessed!

## Inclusive Church workshop will focus on oneness in Christ

The Baton Rouge District will have a day-long workshop on the Inclusive Church, Saturday, Oct. 10 at First UMC in Baton Rouge.

Drs. John and Carole Cotton Winn will lead the event which begins with registration at 8:30 and ends at 2:30 p.m.

Rev. Phil Woodland, chair of the Baton

Rouge District Inclusivity Team, says the purpose of the workshop is to celebrate diversity in the church and to move toward experiencing our oneness in Christ.

All United Methodists are invited. For more information, call the Baton Rouge District Office at (225) 296-0668.



**A St. Mark "Parking Lot Greeter" helps a church attendee make her way from the parking lot to the service.**

## St. Mark 'greeters' model ways of Christ

A new ministry called "Parking Lot Greeters" has come to fruition at St. Mark UMC in Baton Rouge. This ministry is helping to make the church a more inviting congregation. But more importantly, it has enhanced efforts to make disciples for Christ by modeling the ways of Christ to the community. "Actions speak louder than words" is their motto.

The "Parking Lot Greeters" include youth, young adults and adults who are willing and enthusiastic about helping others. They guide visitors to the sanctuary and introduce them to the inside greeters to receive ribbons and sign in. On rainy days, they assist with umbrellas. Special attention is given to handicapped persons.

## 'Little church' will have big centennial celebration

Moses Chapel will hold its Centennial Celebration on its annual Home Coming Day, Sunday, Sept. 27 at 1 p.m.

Moses Chapel, a small church (building and membership) is located in Zachary. Pastored by Rev. Larry Freeman, the church is located on Highway 64, just west of Highway 67 (Plank Road).

There is a rich heritage of Methodism and many family faith stories to be shared by the members of the "THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART." Come celebrate them with us.

Call Rev. Freeman at (225) 654-2211 for more information.



# MENTIONINGS

The **inauguration of Dr. Michael L. Lomax** as the seventh president of **Dillard University** will take place on **Sunday, Oct. 18** at the Rosa Freeman Keller Avenue of the Oaks at Dillard, 2601 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans. Inaugural activities will begin on Friday, Oct. 16. Call (504) 286-4710 for information.

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR

**SHALOM SUMMIT IV** will be held **Nov. 13-15** at the Airport Marriott Hotel in Houston. A two-and-a-half day Shalom experience that includes networking, worship, site visits and workshops, Shalom Summit IV is designed to broaden the scope of community ministries through celebrating common goals for economic development; physical and emotional wholeness; strengthening cultural, racial and ethnic relationships and spiritual development.

Communities of Shalom, an initiative of The United Methodist Church, coordinated by the General Board of Global Ministries in consultation with the National Shalom Committee, offers Shalom Summit IV to assist churches and communities as they work together to rebuild and renew community life.

Participants will have the opportunity to attend workshops, receive on-site education, obtain informational resources and share their Shalom stories. Dr. John Kretzmann, co-author of *Building Communities from the Inside Out*, will be the banquet speaker.

For registration information, please call (212) 870-3826 or (210) 647-3336 or fax your request to (210) 497-8668.

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR

The **South Central Jurisdiction Singles Network** will have a training event called **MOUNTAIN QUEST!** at Mt. Sequoyah **Oct. 9-11**. The weekend will offer single ministry leadership skills, information and training for "20Something" Ministry, spiritual and personal growth opportunities, music, fun, humor, new connections, prayer and healing and quiet time in the beautiful autumn woods of Mt. Sequoyah. The keynote speaker will be Ed Kilbourne, nationally recognized Christian singer and story teller.

The cost is \$145 for the entire weekend; deadline to register is Oct. 2. Call (501) 443-4531 for details or find it on the SCJ website at:

<http://gbgm-umc.org/conferences/scjumc/pg000013.htm>.

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR

A **Peace with Justice Global Consultation** called "**The United Methodist Church and Working People: Joining the Struggle for Workplace Peace and Justice**" will be held **Nov. 13-15** in Atlanta at the Ramada Inn & Conference Center. Speakers will include Linda Chavez-Thompson, executive vice president of the AFL-CIO, and Alex Herman, U.S. secretary of labor. The event will include a banquet honoring UM Bishop Jesse DeWitt and UM Rev. Joseph Lowery--retired president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference--as well as workshops on Church/Labor Models of Cooperation/Partnership, Labor Rights and Economic Issues and Campaigns. Sponsors of the conference are the Concern for Workers Task Force, the General Board of Church and Society and the General Board of Global Ministries.

The Louisiana Conference has Peace with Justice monies available to cover registration fees for interested attendees. (\$85 before Oct. 1, \$100 after Oct. 1.) Contact Rev. Steven Porter, pastor, Westlake UMC, at (318) 433-7499 for scholarship information.

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR

A **Pastor and Church Tax Seminar** sponsored by the National Association of Church Business Administration--Delta Chapter--will be held **Tuesday, Nov. 3** at First UMC, Monroe. Gene Hill, an Austin, Tex. certified public accountant, recently retired from the Internal Revenue Service as a senior appeals officer, will lead the seminar. The morning session is designed for pastors and administrators while the afternoon session will include church officers, attorneys, bookkeepers, financial secretaries, accountants, pastors and administrators. Early registration is requested prior to Sept. 30. Contact Nancy Tate, treasurer of the Delta Chapter, at (318) 325-7335 for a registration form or information. Her e-mail address is: [Fumcmom@iamerica.net](mailto:Fumcmom@iamerica.net).

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR

"**Hope Out of the Ashes**," a one-hour documentary on achieving racial harmony in churches and communities, is being produced by United Methodist Communications (UMCom) for the National Council of Churches (NCC) for airing on ABC-TV affiliates around the country. According to the NCC, the title of the special reflects on the burning of more than 100 churches, fires ignited by hatred and intolerance, as well as the "possibilities of a reconciliation that goes beyond legal imperatives to change places in the heart."

A live feed of "Hope Out of the Ashes," will go **Oct. 11** at 12:30 p.m. (ET) to each affiliate, which has the option to carry it at its convenience or to decide against airing. **United Methodists who want to ensure that the special will be carried in their areas should contact representatives of local ABC affiliates.**

## Inter-faith Shalom Zone budding in Baton Rouge will be first in U.S.

by Rev. Karl S. Klaus  
President, United Methodist Mission Center Cooperative Council

"Bloom where you are planted" may be an apt metaphor for the Baton Rouge District's first Shalom Zone. About one year after the planting of the seed, and with constant nurturing through conversations and meetings, the first Shalom Zone in Baton Rouge--and the first ecumenical Shalom Zone in the country--is about to blossom!

On Aug. 27, 26 people met at the United Methodist Mission Center, to discuss developing a Shalom Zone in the Winbourne/Evangeline/Istrouma area of

country. She explained, "A Shalom Zone is a defined geographic area within the community in which churches work toward systemic change by collaborating with community organizations and community residents to develop economic prosperity, strengthen multi-cultural relationships, coordinate community resources, empower community leaders and residents to plan for their community's future and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ." She also outlined how this is accomplished by using the four Shalom Principles of Mission Evangelism, Asset-Based Community Development, Collaboration and Systemic Change.

Using the story of Jesus' feeding the five thousand, Byrd illustrated what she called "the greatest example of asset-based community development." Out of the five thousand that had gathered, one boy had the asset of just a few fish and some bread. But using just that one community-based asset, Jesus was able to feed them all. The same can be true for the assets within a Shalom Zone.

The next step in the process is to form the Shalom Zone Team that will be trained to begin the work. The team members will be residents of the community, members of local churches and community leaders.

The UM Mission Center and the Federation of Churches and Synagogues together represent over 75 congregations. What is exciting is that, with the support of the Baton Rouge District, Shalom Zones could be developed all over Baton Rouge!

From this flowering beginning in north Baton Rouge, seeds of new Shalom Zones will be planted and will grow into flowering ministries across our community.



the city. Members of the Cooperative Council of the UM Mission Center joined with members of the Board of Directors of the Greater Baton Rouge Federation of Churches and Synagogues, along with members of Evangeline UMC and other civic and community leaders, for an "Initial Consultation" on establishing an "Interfaith" Community of Shalom.

Lynda R. Byrd, national coordinator for Communities of Shalom, UM General Board of Global Ministries, led the consultation, supported by Dr. Alonzo Campbell, Louisiana Conference coordinator for Communities of Shalom.

Byrd shared success stories of some of the 200-plus Shalom Zones across the

## CCYM funds contribute to completion of OWL cabins



Thanks to the \$1,250 which the Louisiana Methodist Children's Home in Ruston received from the Louisiana Conference Council on Youth Ministry and other generous donations of lumber, supplies and volunteer labor, six cabins (like the two pictured above) have been completed this summer at its Outdoor Wilderness Learning (OWL) Center.

The cabins will allow youth in care at the Home, church groups and others to experience "therapeutic camping" on the OWL Center's 800 acres located fifteen miles northwest of Ruston.



# AROUND THE CONFERENCE NEWS

## Bethany UMC assists students in great school start

by Mrs. Helen McCollum, Chair  
Work Area On Education, Bethany UMC

Rev. Hadley R. Edwards, pastor of Bethany UMC in New Orleans, gave rise to the idea that Bethany should assist students in a smooth transition from vacation to back to school by giving them needed supplies. The idea was put into motion by the Work Area on Education.

Congregation members (pictured below) came forth to help with purchasing supplies, ordering pencils with



Bethany's own monogram and filling the bags.

On Christian Education Sunday, Aug. 30, after a program of celebration conducted by our youth and Dr. Deborah Smith as guest speaker, approximately 200 "Back to School Packages" were given to the children of the Sunday School, to needy community children named by members, to Methodist Children Home residents and to Bethany's Partnership in Education School, Mary D. Coghill Accelerated Elementary School. The packages contained supplies for grades pre-kindergarten through high school.

## Louisiana Conference Edition of the United Methodist Review

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Dr. Rena Yocom, Director,

Gospel Communications

Bobbie Armstrong, Editor

Dr. Alonzo Campbell

Subscriptions: \$12.50 per year

(Please make checks payable to Louisiana Annual Conference.)

Send subscriptions, news and information to:

Editor

527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

1 (888) 239-5286

(225)346-1646, (225) 383-2652 fax

(NEW) e-mail: editor@premier.net

### On the Web

You can find the Louisiana Annual Conference on the Internet at

<http://www.gbmg-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>

### DEADLINE FOR:

October 2 Issue--September 21

## Asbury UMC kids' quarters buy goats



The children (age three through twelve) of Asbury UMC, West Monroe, collected enough quarters to buy two goats for Heifer Project International. The kids are pictured above with Pastor Johnny Hankins.

## Operation Handicap Ramp at FUMC, Slidell helps group 'help one another'

by Steve Miller

SLIDELL—The Slidell City Council introduced an ordinance this week [Aug. 27] waiving the permit construction fees for ramps being built at the homes of handicapped Slidellians by members of the First United Methodist Church.

The church group is providing the materials and building the wooden ramps free of charge for handicapped households which could not otherwise afford a ramp.



Volunteers from First UMC, Slidell work on Project Handicap Ramp.

So far, the group has built five ramps and they plan to continue with Operation Handicap Ramp until every person who needs a ramp has one or

until donations run out, said Thomas J. Cornelius, a First United Methodist Church member involved in the project.

"God said, 'Help one another,' and that's what we try to do," said Cornelius.

"It is a great project," said Councilman Dudley Smith, one of the sponsors of the ordinance. "When anybody does something to benefit the community, we (city government) should certainly not stand in their way. We should help them."

Anyone in need of a ramp at their home or anyone who wishes to make a donation to Operation Handicap Ramp should call First United Methodist Church of Slidell at (504) 643-6437.

Cornelius said they begin work on a ramp within about two weeks of receiving a request. Volunteers from the church build the ramps on Saturdays and it usually takes them about six or seven hours to finish the job.

It costs between \$8.50 and \$10 per foot for the ramp materials and the church group can use donations of any amount in order to keep Operation Handicap Ramp going, said Cornelius.

Reprinted from Slidell SENTRY-News.

## In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to: Mrs. Judy O'Dell, wife of Rev. Larry O'Dell, pastor, Christ UMC (Shreveport District), on the death of her grandfather, Mr. Wiley Clary, Sept. 4. His funeral was held Sept. 5 in Minden.

Mrs. Jackie Campbell, wife of Dr. Alonzo Campbell, Conference coordinator of Special Ministries and pastor of Robert UMC, Denham Springs (North Shore District), on the death of her father, Mr. A.D. Stewart, Sept. 6. His funeral was held Sept. 11 in Prairieview, Tex.

Mrs. Eileen Roper, wife of Rev. Charles Roper, pastor, Grayson UMC

(Monroe District), on the death of her father, Mr. Charles Caldwell, Sept. 9. His funeral was held in Castle Rock, Colo.

Mrs. Joyce Stringfield, wife of Rev. Mickey Stringfield, chaplain and director of Pastoral Care at the Methodist Children's Home in Ruston, on the death of her father, Mr. Al Bearden, Sept. 10. A memorial service was held in his honor at Mt. Zion UMC in Calhoun.

Rev. Dave Fortuna, pastor, Lea Joyner UMC (Monroe District), on the death of his brother, Mr. Jim Fortuna, Sept. 5. A memorial service was held in his honor Sept. 11 at Love Chapel in Houghton with Rev. Dave Fortuna officiating.

## Coming soon • • ►

The **Kiev Symphony Orchestra and Chorus**, a 180-musician performing ensemble will give a concert at First UMC in Shreveport Thursday, **Oct. 1** at 7:30 p.m. The concert is part of the church's Texas Street Art Series. This fine Ukrainian performing organization was formed in 1993 as an outreach of the Presbyterian Church to help out-of-work Soviet musicians. The group now performs all over the world.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Call the church at (318) 429-6887 for information. ◀ • • • • •

The **Jones UMC in Welsh** will hold its **100th anniversary celebration Oct. 9-11**. The theme for the celebration is "Strengthening the Church for the 21st Century." Festivities will begin with a Friday evening worship service at 7 featuring Rev. Kenneth Fisher, pastor of Warren UMC, and the Warren UMC choir. Saturday will offer a musical service at 7 p.m. with selections by area groups and churches. The anniversary service will be held Sunday at 3 p.m. with Rev. Davis Clark, pastor of St. Mark UMC, delivering the sermon and the Holy Ghost Gospel Choir providing the music. The church is located at 203 North King Street.

• • • • • ► **St. John UMC** in Baton Rouge will sponsor a "**Showcase of Arts and Crafts 'Southern Style'**" Oct. 10 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on the church grounds at 9375 Highland Road. Call (225) 766-4594 for details.

## CONFERENCE Program Calendar

### September

24-27 Cursillo #67, Conference Center

26 Youth Fall Convocation, Conference Center

26 Conference Center Board Meeting

October  
3-11 VIM, Honduras (Medical)

9-10 Local Pastors and Associates Gathering, Conference Center

9-10 UMM Mission Retreat at Sager-Brown

9-11 SCJ Singles Training Event, Mt. Sequoyah

11-17 VIM Heifer Project, Perryville, Ark.

13-14 Cabinet Meeting, Baton Rouge

16 Church Office Professional Seminar, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Conference Center

17 Children in Need Task Force, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Conference Center

22-25 Cursillo #68, Conference Center

24 Conference Special Ministries Retreat

31-Nov.6 Council of Bishops

November  
6-8 VIM Celebration, Tulsa, Okla.

8 UMW School Committee, Conference Center

10-11 Cabinet Meeting, Baton Rouge

13-14 The Academy for Spiritual Leadership





# Louisiana

## CONFERENCE

### edition

Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
225.346.1646  
/225.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

018000

Send PS Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

Vol 15 No 21 ■ October 2, 1998

## Dillard University to inaugurate Lomax as seventh president

by **Bobbie Armstrong**  
Editor, LUM Review

Without much fanfare, Dr. Michael Lomax, president of United Methodist-related Dillard University in New Orleans, has been diligently working for the past year to put in place a strategic plan to reposition Dillard as one of the nation's premier institutions of higher learning.

But, on Sunday, Oct. 18, at 4 p.m. on the Avenue of the Oaks on its campus, Dillard will officially inaugurate him as its seventh president.

The inauguration, which also marks Dillard's 129th Founder's Day, will culminate a week of activities, including the opening of a time capsule exhibit on Oct. 15 that depicts the pictorial and archival history and its predecessor universities. Guests will be entertained during the Jesse Covington Dent Chamber Music Festival Concert at 6 p.m. Oct. 15 in the

Alfred K. Lawless Memorial Chapel. Other highlights of the week include an alumni scholarship banquet at 7 p.m. Oct. 16 and the "Avenue of the Oaks Gala" at 7 p.m. Oct. 17, both in Kearney Hall.

When Lomax came to Dillard in July, 1997 to fill the presidential position left vacant when Dr. Samuel DuBois Cook retired after 22 years at the helm, Lomax was realizing the fulfillment of a dream. "I have always wanted to be president of a United Negro College Fund university," he says, "so this is the realization of a life-long goal for me."

He is well-prepared for the job with a rich background in public service and education. He was active in city government in Atlanta for 20 years and taught at Morehouse, Emory, Spellman and the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta as well as the University of Georgia in Athens. In 1994, he was elect-



**Dr. Michael Lucius Lomax looks to the future at Dillard University.**

ed president of the National Faculty, a nonprofit organization which develops and implements content-based academic programs to strengthen the quality of

teaching.

Lomax's strategic plan for Dillard

**Please see Lomax, page 8.**

## Laity Sunday Oct. 18 to focus on 'Partners in Ministry' theme

by **Dr. Anita H. Crump**  
Conference Lay Leader

I am challenging all district and local church lay leaders to observe Laity Sunday on Oct. 18 using the theme



**Dr. Anita Crump**

"Partners in Ministry: Making Disciples of Jesus Christ in Daily Life."

Partners in Ministry is an experience which will result in behavioral skill building, leadership development, team build-

ing and the strengthening of communication skills which will enhance laity and clergy joint ministry.

In Matthew 4:19, Jesus called Simon Peter and Andrew, his brother, to follow Him. As Christians, we are likewise called to be those faithful disciples who will minister to the needs of people.

The call to laity is a clarion summons for action as we go about our task of winning others to Christ and starting them on the path to discipleship. Winning others to Christ is a partnership which must be embarked upon by laity and clergy and can improve and strengthen our churches.

We are called upon to fulfill the Great Commission by helping to evangelize the world. The salvation of the world was left by Jesus in the hands of Christians, both laity and clergy. Jesus intended that every one of his followers should be His witnesses. Then let us go into the hedges and highways and compel persons to come where they will be nur-

tured, equipped, trained, disciplined, transformed and sent out to win others.

Our theme gives us opportunities for ministry where we will be able to serve others. Jesus Christ was concerned about human problems and needs. He was concerned when a woman had a bleeding tumor (Matthew 9:20), when people were hungry and tired (Matthew 12:1-3) and when a father grieved for a dead daughter (Matthew 9:18). He helped them when they were hurting.

We can provide opportunities for discipleship in our daily lives by doing the following:

1) Rendering community service by offering friendship to at least one needy, hurting human being. They are living in every community: the homeless, a school dropout, a compulsive gambler, a pregnant teenager.

2) Volunteering in schools, hospitals, hospices, nursing homes.

3) Working with Volunteers In Mission (VIM).

4) Organizing groups to feed the hungry.

5) Assisting with Youth Prison Ministry.

6) Working to eradicate substance abuse.

7) Providing training programs for children, youth and adults which will focus on preventive measures.

Yes, we can make Christian disciples who will join with us as we reach out to make things happen and cause the world to experience the "peace which passeth all understanding." Let's do it!

## INSIDE ...

- 2 Days of Heavy Hearts
- 3 The Connected Church
- 4 Lake Charles District News
- 5 Monroe District News
- 6 New Orleans District News
- 7 Summit highlights children





Bishop Dan Solomon

## Being and Doing

### 'Days of Heavy Hearts'



For Christian people in the United States, these are days of heavy hearts. We grieve for our nation, for all persons affected directly and indirectly by the moral failures reported in the documents presented by the Independent Counsel and for children and families whose lives are impacted by the actions of leaders, neighbors and family members.

We will only compound the tragedy if these days are dominated by technical legal maneuvering, partisan glee, self-righteous condemnation, defensiveness and salacious enjoyment. The gravity of the moment calls us into deeper reflection, prayer, public discernment and personal evaluation. Surely, the people called by the name of Christ have within us the resources to elevate this discussion to a level above gutter humor, the exercise of raw political muscle and the indifference of the cynical.

We might begin by admitting how hard it seems to be for so many to embrace honesty and integrity. In an age that has sought to limit the unpleasant and inconvenient consequences of the human journey by evasion, rationalization and consumption, those who believe honesty and integrity belong squarely in the human equation have been considered "out of step," a bit antiquated or, at best, too judgmental. In more ways than we want to admit, our government has lied, political leaders have lied, parents and children have lied, or if we have not told bold untruths, then we have disseminated "part-truths" which result in the effect of a lie without the distasteful features of a lie. We have become immune to the way modern advertising mangles the truth. We dismiss politicians' "promises" as "rhetoric necessary to get elected." In other words, we have so often discounted and rationalized the "means" to the end, we have bankrupted the "means" of its moral content. Our entire society—from corporate boardrooms, to the halls of government, to the living rooms of our homes and yes, even to the church—is choking on the disregard for and even the abuse of the truth. At least the present crisis in our nation has pushed to the forefront the critical difference that an individual's actions make in the life of the community or nation.

We might also consider the impact on personal, moral behavior of a society saturated with sex. Images with sexual content and appeal bombard children, youth and adults every day in a myriad of ways. Rarely is there any portrayal of the tragic consequences of the misuse and moral abuse of sexuality. We glorify the expression of sexuality; we hide or excuse the bitter results when sexuality is exploited, degraded, predatory and manipulative. In fact, much public treatment of sexual misconduct is flippant, glamorized and made inconsequential. If you are wondering that such is the case, reflect on what is portrayed in many television shows and movies.

We might also register some level of surprise at what seems to be the sudden discovery of "moral outrage" on the part of political leaders and an offended citizenry. While acknowledging the merited moral outrage over the actions of those involved in the current scandal, one can well ask, "where is the moral outrage over 38 million children dying of hunger?" Where is the moral outrage over "pork barrel" projects that fatten a few pockets at the expense of the national treasury and the common good? Where is the moral outrage over the rejection of legislation that would have provided summer job opportunities for "at-risk youth?" Where is the moral outrage over spending \$60,000 a year to warehouse a criminal and only \$6,000 per year to educate a child? Where is the moral outrage over children suffering for lack of health care? Perhaps the rediscovery of "moral outrage" will result in its broader application.

What do people of faith bring to this discussion? We bring the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount. We bring the Two Great Commandments. We bring the personal witness of Jesus. We bring Jesus' words: "confession;" "repentance;" "forgive;" "go and sin no more;" "the truth shall set you free." We bring the resources of prayer: "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14) We bring conversations with friends and family members in which we can lead with our faith and not with our politics. We can say to a society that is obsessed with identifying in every situation the "winner" and the "loser" that "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."

We can say to ourselves, "We put aside all secret and shameful deeds; we do not act with deceit, nor do we falsify the word of God. In the full light of the truth we live in God's sight and try to commend ourselves to everyone's good conscience." (2 Corinthians 4:2)

Whatever the outcome of decisions yet to be made in Washington, we can conduct our own lives in a manner that reflects integrity, moral responsibility and the personal self-discipline that befits the character of a Christian.

Likewise, we can have those conversations and demonstrate those values that help to change the status quo rather than mirroring it. "Do not let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold." (Romans 12:2)

Dan E. Solomon

## Yes, you can use E-mail to petition General Conference

For the first time, persons who want to send petitions to General Conference can do so by e-mail. The 1996 General Conference amended *Discipline* Para. 507 so that petitions could be sent by e-mail. Previously, three signed copies were required of all petitions.

To electronically file a petition, write **Petitions@UMPublishing.Org**. You may attach a Microsoft Word file or a WordPerfect file. You may also use strike-thru and bold commands to indicate

copy you wish deleted from a disciplinary paragraph and copy you wish added. Your petition should address only one paragraph of the *Discipline*, unless two or more paragraphs in the *Discipline* are so closely related that a change in one affects the others. Or your petition should address only one issue if it is a resolution.

You may also send petitions by regular mail to Sheila McGee, petitions secretary, P.O. Box 801, Nashville, TN 37202.

**All petitions must be received by Dec. 3, 1999** (150 days prior to the May 2 opening of General Conference).

Last quadrennium, the petitions secretary processed 8,000 petitions from individuals, agencies, churches, and annual conferences. Because of duplications, these proposals were combined into 3,070 different pieces of proposed legislation. --NEWSCOPE

*General Conference will be held May 2-12, 2000 in Cleveland, Ohio.*

## SCJ volunteers making plans for April Mt. Sequoyah Work Week

People with good memories from experiences at Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville, Ark., have a chance to give back some of what they have received by signing up for Mt. Sequoyah's annual Jurisdiction-wide Work Week, April 12-16, 1999.



Volunteers will receive free housing. A \$57 fee will cover all meals beginning with dinner on Monday, April 12 and ending with breakfast on Friday, April 16.

Rev. Treva Hall of Springfield, Mo., and Chris Peters of Mt. Sequoyah, are the group leaders. Rev. Hall, a former member of the Mt. Sequoyah Board of Trustees, is hoping for a good turnout in 1999.

Work Week volunteers will take their talents to The Mountain and perform a variety of tasks, all aimed at making the place even more inviting than it already is. They will cover the basics such as painting and planting, but the door is open to people with special skills, Rev. Hall said.

Registration for the April Work Week is available by calling the Louisiana Volunteers in Mission office at (888) 239-5286. Should Louisiana Conference lovers of Mt. Sequoyah not find the April dates appropriate for their calendars, there are five more opportunities to return to The Mountain.

During March, Louisiana VIM will direct the renovation of the Bishop's Cottage on the grounds of Mt. Sequoyah. Four teams of Louisiana volunteers joined by other VIMers from across the jurisdiction, will begin work during the weeks of March 1, 8, 15 and 22 to complete this construction-type project. Mission volunteers should call Sam and Janie Burch at (318) 439-8630 or the VIM office at (888) 239-5286 for more information.

There are many opportunities to enjoy and contribute to the spirit, beauty and memories of Mt. Sequoyah. This most sacred space of our South Central Jurisdiction awaits!







# The Connected Church

## Serve One Another in Love!

A One-Day Seminar with Louisiana UM Church Office Professionals will feature

### Crisis Management

Frank Campbell, MSW, BCSW  
Ex. director, Baton Rouge Crisis Intervention Center

### Lunch with Fran Spain

Humorist and author of  
*Fifteen Minutes or Forget IT!*

### Being a Church Office Professional

Dr. Joyce Smith Loudon

### Networking

Facilitated by  
Dr. Rena Yocom, area director,  
Gospel Communications

Contact Paula Pittman at the  
Baton Rouge District Office  
(225) 296-0668  
to register.

## La. youth, leader attend international evangelical conference

by Faye Ross

### Baton Rouge District Youth Coordinator

The Sixth International Christian Youth Conference on Evangelism at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, Ga., was truly a lighthouse for the hundreds of United Methodist youth and youth leaders from approximately 40 countries around the world who gathered to share their mission and works for Jesus Christ.

This year's conference is the first held in the U.S. Beginning in 1980, previous conferences have been held in England, the Bahamas, Mexico, Australia and Germany.

The seven days were blessed with the warm hospitality of the Georgia Conference Retreat Center staff and the beautiful 47-acre grounds set under towering, ancient live oak trees dripping with swamp moss.

Our days were filled with Holy Communion each morning in the famous Lovely Lane Chapel, Bible study with international leaders, seminars, workshops, mission trips in the city and outstanding music from around the world. We listened to great inspirational speakers: Bishop John Bryant, Steve Fitzhugh, Grace Imathiu, Joe Hale and Eddie Fox. We visited Fort Frederica and traced John Wesley's footsteps during his brief stay in Georgia, from his landing to his service at Ft. Frederica on St. Simons as minister to the Indians. During sudden thunderstorms, we all gathered and sang Charles Wesley's "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing." A "visit" from John Wesley and his mother, Susanna, was one of the highlights of the conference.

We shared stories and ideas, listened to and prayed for each other and lifted up Jesus Christ, the light in our hearts and souls. It was the connecting of brothers and sisters in faith, in love and fellowship. The four United Methodists



Louisiana United Methodist youth Julian Palmer (left) and Anthony Lathan (right) attended the ICYCE conference with Faye Ross (middle), Baton Rouge District youth coordinator.

from Louisiana who attended the conference were Anthony Lathan, Julian Palmer and Faye Ross from Wesley UMC, Baton Rouge and Sandy Estinel from First UMC, Houma. Paula Wiley, Thomas Hoyt and Chaundra White (CME) also attended from Louisiana.

We left the conference with the challenge to proclaim "The Year Of The Lord's Favor" and to link God's historical revelation in Bethlehem to the present so that people come to know Jesus Christ in new ways.

We were also challenged to enter the new millennium bearing witness to the One Savior and Lord, born 2,000 years ago, as the world's hope today. What an awesome light we have to follow into the new millennium.

ICYCE is sponsored by World Evangelism, a program of the World Methodist Council, in cooperation with the World Methodist Youth Committee and the host committee of the South Georgia conference.



## A great idea...hint, hint!!!

### MEMORANDUM

To: Church Office Professionals at Broadmoor, UMC, Baton Rouge

From: Jon Gray

Chances are that you have not ever heard me say this...so pay attention. **YOU ARE NOT TO COME TO WORK (on Friday, October 16)! TAKE THE DAY OFF AND DO WHATEVER YOU WANT** (so long as it involves your attendance at the attached conference).

On Friday, October 16, the Louisiana United Methodist Conference is hosting an event for you! A one day seminar at the Conference Center has been designed for you and the workplace experience. Arrangements have already been made to handle the office for the day (not your specific work, however) and I am requesting your presence at this conference.

Transportation has been taken care of; lunch and dinner will be provided via the Conference Center and BUMC. All you have to do is show up on the morning of the 16th. Debbie Bentley is on the design team for the conference and assures me that all will gain vast new knowledge. Besides, this will be a fun trip away from all appointments, work, telephones and bosses.

On behalf of the entire staff, we appreciate the work you do and how well it is done at Broadmoor UMC.

Bon voyage!

## Say thanks to La. radio stations helping spread message of UM Church

Have you heard? Your dollars are helping to spread the message of The United Methodist Church through radio ministry. United Methodist Communications (UMCom) has produced some excellent programs and radio spots which radio stations across America are playing.

Following are the stations in Louisiana that are on the report:

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| <b>Alexandria</b>  | KSYL--970 AM   |
| <b>Amite</b>       | WABL--1570 AM  |
| <b>Baton Rouge</b> | WFME--102.5 FM |
|                    | WSKR--1150 AM  |
| <b>Franklinton</b> | WFCG--1110 AM  |
| <b>Houma</b>       | KJIN--1490 AM  |
|                    | KCIL--107.5 FM |

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>Lake Charles</b> | KAOK--1400 AM  |
| <b>Leesville</b>    | KJAE--92.7 FM  |
|                     | KLLA--1570 AM  |
|                     | KVVP--105.7 FM |
| <b>Metairie</b>     | WSGO--990 AM   |
|                     | WVOG--600 AM   |
| <b>Minden</b>       | KASO--1240 AM  |
|                     | KASO--95.3 FM  |
| <b>New Orleans</b>  | WRNO--99.5 FM  |
| <b>Oak Grove</b>    | KWCL--96.7 FM  |
| <b>Shreveport</b>   | KEEL--710 AM   |
|                     | KITT--93.7 FM  |
|                     | KRUF--94.5 FM  |
|                     | KWKH--1130 AM  |



|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| <b>Vivian</b>       | KNCB--1320 AM |
| <b>Ville Platte</b> | KVPI          |
| <b>Winnfield</b>    | KVCL--92.1 FM |

The programs being played include "Civility" spots, "Passages," "Move On" spots and "take 5" spots.

We appreciate the many contributions these stations are making and hope you'll take time to thank your local stations for their support and for sharing our vision. If stations in your area are not playing these messages, get involved in getting them involved!

Call Gospel Communications at the Conference Office (888-239-5286) if you want more information.





# Lake Charles District News

816 Kirkman Street  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
(318) 439-2982

**District Superintendent**  
J. Lawrence Maddin  
**Communication Advisor**  
Constance Handy

## Warren UMC celebrates 110th anniversary in October

Warren UMC in Lake Charles will celebrate its 110th anniversary Oct. 3-25. Activities leading up to this grand event are:

**Extravaganza Gala:** Focus on Children, Oct. 3. Speaker: Rev. Al G. Stevenson of Corner Stone Baptist Church.

**Outreach Ministry:** with Jones Chapel in Welsh, Oct. 9. Speaker: Rev. Kenneth Fisher

**Fun Day:** Oct. 10.

**Concert:** Oct. 21. Featuring: Rev. Kenneth Fisher.

**Jones Chapel comes to Warren:** Pre-Anniversary Prayer & Praise Service, Oct. 23. Speaker: Dr. Marvette Thomas-Jackson.

**Prayer Breakfast:** Oct. 24. Speaker: Rev. Michael Robinson.

**Memorial Services:** Oct. 25. Speaker: Rev. Kenneth Fisher.

The celebration culminates on Oct. 25 with an afternoon service featuring Dr. George Calvin of the Wesley Foundation at Southern University in Baton Rouge.

### News, anyone?

If you have stories, news articles and pictures you would like included in the next Lake Charles District page, please contact **Constance Abraham-Handy**, district communication advisor, at (318) 474-4187. The mailing address is 2706 Walden Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70607

## Thoughts from the district superintendent: Going the 'first' and 'second' miles

Dr. J. Lawrence Maddin

While we sometimes hear about a relatively few rebellious churches, it is good to note a movement in the Virginia Conference reported in the Aug. 21 issue of **UM Newscope**. Over 400 United Methodists there have formed the Society of the First Mile. This "society" of UMs have not only joined an effort to ensure paying "all conference and district askings in full," but also to "encourage my local church to extend its support of World Service and Conference Benevolences about our apportioned share."

These supporters "are going the second mile in their first-mile giving," according to one observer. Forty-seven congregations in the Virginia Conference paid 101 percent or more of their World Service, in addition to their full support

of all other apportionments.

Some churches and individuals in Louisiana are not only assuring payment of their own local church's connectional ministries in full, they are contributing beyond that in order to make up for some of the struggling churches here who have not been able to pay 100 percent. Most districts would welcome such discipleship. I know of one for certain. (See if you can guess which one, and then send support accordingly.)

We have made great strides in our stewardship of connectional ministries in Louisiana these past two years, and we're making even further improvement this year. Will your church be among those paying in full? Might you go not only the "first mile," but also the "second mile," by helping the struggling churches?

## Making a Christian Difference

### VIM team journeys to Warren Village

An intergenerational Volunteers In Mission team of eight missionaries—ranging in age from teenagers to 70-years-old—from the Lake Charles District journeyed to Warren Village in Denver, Colo. in July to "make a Christian difference." Warren Village is a United Methodist ministry to single-parent families which is nationally known for helping these families move from dependency to self-sufficiency.

A Vacation Bible School was offered each morning—using puppets, singing, memory verses and crafts to share God's love. The children participating were ages 5-13 and proved to be a real challenge to the VIM team. A testimony to the success of the team in relating to these challenging children was found in a letter the team received after returning home. The week after the VBS the letter informed the team that the most challenging child of all had asked a worker at Warren Village if the team could not do it again real soon.

Cleaning, painting, library work, and child care occupied the missionaries during the afternoons.

Comments from missionaries on what they liked most included "feeling like I was where God wanted me to be," "showing the children Christian love," "affirmative responses of the children," and "meeting more happy United Methodists serving in the mission field."

Team members were Betty Carlin (crafts director), Jean Foreman (VBS director), Micah and Tim Foreman (puppeteers), Arline Haney, Gayle Maddin, Dr. Larry Maddin (team leader) and Sallie Smith.



Children and missionaries sing "This Little Light of Mine" in the chapel. Missioners pictured, left to right, Dr. Larry Maddin, Arline Haney and Sallie Smith.



Dr. Maddin at right, leads the group in closing communion service in the "Garden of the Gods."



**MISSION IN MOTION**—This is the collection box built at Oak Park UMC to look like the Mission In Motion truck which has been traveling around the Louisiana Conference. Shown in the photo are Pastor Tommy Bergeron and Wanda Moss, MIM church coordinator for Oak Park. The truck traveled throughout the Lake Charles District in September.

## Youth project in Vinton goes city-wide to help needy

What began as a Youth Mission Project for Welsh Memorial UMC in Vinton turned into a city-wide Youth Mission Project for needy families. The response from the community was overwhelming.

Youth from Welsh Memorial, St. Joseph Catholic Church, First Baptist Church, St. James Baptist and Antioch Baptist Church, individuals and several civic organizations volunteered their time to organize nearly 3,000 articles of clothing donated by the community. The youth also collected and bagged hundreds of crayons, glue, rulers, scissors, writing tablets and paper to be given away. The VFW, American Legion, 25 Men of Distinction and various individuals donated almost \$1,000 to help with school supplies and some school fees.

Jerry Johnson, pastor of Welsh Memorial, said "this is an example of what can happen when our youth come together to help others; it proves again that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts."

Those participating in the Youth Mission Project were assigned a volunteer to help him/her sort through the clothing. Everyone could pick ten items for each of their school age children. They were also given a package of basic school supplies for each child.

"It was wonderful to see the community come together to help our own," according to Johnson. "The actions of Vinton's youth should reassure many that we have wonderful and giving young people in our community. We know that the kind acts of all who volunteered will be repaid many times over."



## Winnsboro FUMC Fall Revival 'Touched by Grace'

by Betty S. Martin

District Communication Advisor



Jon Telfiero

Rev. Jon E. Telfiero, pastor, First UMC, DeRidder, will be leading the Fall Revival at First UMC, Winnsboro. Revival services begin Sunday evening, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m. with a potluck dinner at 5:30. Lunch and devotionals will be held in Fellowship Hall

Monday through Wednesday at noon.

Rev. Telfiero has chosen "Touched by Grace" as the theme for the revival; the noon devotionals will focus on "Journeying with Abraham, Jacob and Joseph."

Rev. Telfiero has been in active ministry more than 18 years in Louisiana and Kentucky. He holds a B.A. degree in religion from Asbury College and a Master of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary, both in Wilmore, Kentucky.

Active in civic organizations, Rev. Telfiero is a member of the DeRidder Lions' Club and president of the

DeRidder Area Ministerial Alliance. He is a board member of the Louisiana Moral and Civic Foundation, which in April, presented him its J. Henry Bowden, Sr. Preaching Award for "Outstanding Preaching on

Moral Issues." He also is director of the North Louisiana Christian Ashram, an interdenominational renewal movement.

Greg and Kristen Oden of Monroe will lead the music for the revival. Greg is a native of Crossett, Ark. and comes from a long line of musicians. Kristen is a native of Monroe and has been the featured soloist with many symphony orchestras. Both Kristen and Greg are serving at First UMC in West Monroe and are on the faculty at Northeast Louisiana University and West Monroe High School, respectively. They are also the proud parents of a son, Blake Allen Oden.

## Send us your news!

Please share your church news and photos with us. Send them to:

Betty Martin,  
District Communication Advisor  
411 Macon Street  
Winnsboro, LA 71295

## Kid's Kamp Summer '98 a success at Rayville UMC



Kampers celebrated the Fourth of July during Kid's Kamp '98.

by Shirley Wall

Activities Director, Rayville UMC

Rayville UMC conducted Bible School with a different flavor and structure during the summer. The program was called "Kid's Kamp Summer '98." Children ages three to ten met every Wednesday in the Family Life Center for Bible stories, music, crafts, face-painting, games and plain, old-fashioned playtime.

Snacks were purchased from the Kid's Kamp General Store with "Big Bucks" earned during activities, and lunches were provided by church members. Church youth served as "Big Brothers and Sisters" and Kamp Assistants. Adult

church members, church staff, parents, grandparents and Sunday School teachers planned, monitored the activities, volunteered time, material and food, and had as much fun as the children and youth.

On the last day, helium-filled balloons, which contained love scriptures from the morning worship time, were released. Program evaluations requested that Kid's Kamp be continued next summer.

As an outgrowth of the summer program, Kid's Kamp Sunday Night will be held throughout the new church year.

## St. Mark's UMC Mission Trip: Moody, TX



A group of seven adults made a "first" mission trip to Moody, Tex., just outside of Waco. While there, the group taught a two-day Vacation Bible School (above) and repaired the porch and stairs of the church's parsonage. In addition, the mission team helped paint the parsonage (left). Everyone had fun and, as usual, those giving received more than they gave!

## Mission Event planned for October at McGuire UMC

by Harold LaGrone

Put Sunday, Oct. 18 on your calendar for a special Missions Emphasis Program at McGuire UMC. Rev. Larry Norman, the new Conference Volunteers In Mission coordinator will be the speaker. The 6 p.m. meeting will be fun, as well as informational and inspirational.

There will be foods from various parts of the world to sample, and interesting and beautiful things gathered from around the world by the congregation will be on display. There will be prizes

for the most authentic foods and for the most interesting displays of treasures from other lands. The theme will be "The World is our Parish." Rev. Norman will also be speaking at the 8:30 and 10:30 services Sunday morning. The program will be part of a month long celebration of McGuire's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Visitors from other churches in the area, especially those interested in Volunteers in Mission, have a special invitation to attend.

# Monroe District News



909 North 18th Street  
Suite 206  
Monroe, LA 70201  
(318) 387-7364

District Superintendent  
Rev. Marie Williams  
Communication Advisor  
Betty S. Martin

## A PRAYER ANSWERED!



The Mt. Olive UMC family had a surprise during this year's Vacation Bible School. Approximately 15 children from the community were expected to attend, but over 50 children showed up for the activities! The Northeast Louisiana University Education Day Care Center brought 30 children to the event.

Everyone agreed it was a sight to see --and, a prayer answered.





# New Orleans District News



3401 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119  
(504) 488-5430

## District Superintendent

Rev. Carole Cotton Winn

## District Communication Advisor

Dian Kent

## On A Scripture

*Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well." (RSV)*

At a time when so many are seeking so much, it seems as if the Lord gets what's left over—if anything—in our lives. Everyone has become so busy we have little time to be bothered with time-consuming matters of faith and service. But Matthew 6:33 demands that we place our relationship with God in Christ at the **TOP** of our list of priorities.

**Rev. Gene M. Faurie, Pastor**  
**Trinity-Hope Chapel UMC**

## Let us tell your story...

Let us tell your story. If you have a story to tell about your church or your members, please contact the New Orleans District Communication Advisor, Dian Kent at (504) 368-2567. You may also contact the New Orleans District Office at (504) 488-5430. Please mail information to:

**Dian Kent**  
**837 Sumner Street**  
**New Orleans, Louisiana 70114**

# Around the New Orleans District

The previous New Orleans District page featured local church happenings. Because there was so much to tell, this is a continuation of our updates on a small sampling of New Orleans churches:

**LAHARPE UMC** (Rev. William L. Jones) has a year-round feeding and clothing program begun in 1996 that is held the 4th Saturday of each month. The community is invited into the church on that day to share a meal and to select clothing for family members. Clothing items are secured through donations. Cecelia Prevost is the coordinator with Jackie Antoine and Paulean Hammond serving as co-coordinators and Elnora Cushingberry as assistant.

The church is also working on a solution to providing access to all its members and potential members. Because the church is a raised structure with steps, it is difficult for some members to enter the building.

**LULING UMC** (Rev. Michael L. Hammett) has seen an increase in average weekly attendance from 79 to 108. Rev. Hammett attributes the increase to a blended worship style, focusing on making disciples, Biblical preaching and visitation. The church has increased its conference apportionments from 25 to 50 percent and is working to increase it beyond that level. Within the past twenty-four months, twenty people have been added to the preparatory roll and 25 to full membership.

**KENNER FIRST UMC** (Rev. William Rowell) has an adult day care center that meets Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Jointly sponsored by Kenner First UMC and the Associated

Catholic Charities, the center is directed by Rev. Kathy Fitzhugh. Anyone interested in volunteering at the center may call (504)469-9492.

On Sept. 21, Kenner First started an after-school tutoring program called



**Bethany UMC held a Service of Baptism on the west lawn of the church.**

"STAIR." Held Tuesday and Thursday from 4-5:30 p.m., the program is in need of volunteers of all ages.

**BETHANY UMC** (Rev. Hadley R. Edwards) has a newly established endowment, the Frank/Kennedy Educational Stipend. This fund is named in memory of the first two pastors of Bethany UMC—Rev. Donald Frank and Rev. Edward A. Kennedy, Jr. This \$10,000 endowment, designed to support the youth of Bethany as they begin their college careers, was donated by church members with matching funds from a private donor. So far, twelve students have received \$500 each to help defray college expenses.

Earlier in the summer, the church baptized eight adults and two children by immersion on its west lawn. More than three hundred attended the Service of Baptism.

Sept. 11-12, Bethany held a church-wide VIM activity which included restoration of a senior citizen's house and litter pick-up in the Pontchartrain Park area.

**PEOPLES UMC** (Rev. Joseph Awotwi) began serving communion weekly on June 21. Believing we should avail ourselves of God's grace as often as possible, Peoples changed to the weekly format to follow early Christian practice, John Wesley's practice and the teaching of Jesus Christ to do it as often as we can in remembrance of his death and resurrection.

**CORNERSTONE UMC** (Rev. Joe Connelly) recently sent thirteen youth to Panama City Beach, Fla., for four days of mission and fun.

The youth participated in beach ministry and in a feeding program to help the homeless. They also attended concerts at Noah's Ark, a United Methodist-funded outreach center. Two of the youth, Danielle Brown and Kalen Grant, ministered in song during one of the concerts. The youth were accompanied by Rev. Connelly and Counselors Karen Grant and Ann Sweany.

**ALGIERS UMC** (Rev. Frank "Trey" Harris, III) will celebrate homecoming on Oct. 25, with members, former members and friends. A special worship service is being planned to be followed by dinner on the grounds.

## United Methodist Men on the move with Boy Scouts

The United Methodist Men of the New Orleans District are taking a serious attitude about Bishop Dan Solomon's challenge to be concerned about the children of our world and in our local communities.

The New Orleans District UMM have been working hand-in-hand with the New Orleans Council of Boy Scouts of America by encouraging local churches to become active charterers of a troop or cub scout pack.

The New Orleans District has presented four Boy Scout troops with a \$200 check through a match program. This program is designed to assist five area troops that are successful in raising \$200 or more through fund raising. The 1998 recipient troops are Troops 244, 378, 488 and 487. Three are United Methodist based.

Funds to support this project are raised through the United Methodist Men's annual banquet.

The Greater New Orleans United



**Gretna UMC celebrated Scouting Sunday on July 12.**

Methodist Men (a cluster of local African-American churches) are making group visits to the New Orleans Methodist Home for Children. Through these visits they also provide the children with needed supplies.

The group has presented donations to

the Lafon Home for the Elderly, the Gulfside Retreat facility, and Peoples Community Center, along with the Methodist Home for Children. These donations have been made possible by proceeds raised from a yearly Fall Christian Musical.



## Memorable

## MENTIONINGS

United Methodists can apply to join a **two-week ecumenical visit to refugee camps and projects in Africa** next May.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is coordinating United Methodist participation in the trip, which is sponsored by Church World Services, the relief agency of the National Council of Churches. **The application deadline is Oct. 16**, according to Lilia Fernandez, UMCOR's executive secretary for refugee ministries. UMCOR will contribute a \$700 scholarship toward the travel and accommodations cost, which is \$2,500.

Applicants must have experience working with refugees in the United States, and they must be committed to interpreting their experience in local churches to increase interest in and awareness of refugee ministry.

For an application, call Fernandez at (212) 870-3805 or send an e-mail to liliaf@gbgm-umc.org.

**Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Inc.**, is currently seeking a spiritual, creative and innovative leader to fill the position of **Chief Executive/Administrative Officer**.

BMCR, based in Dayton, Oh., is an official caucus of the United Methodist Church whose primary function is to represent the black constituency through advocacy, empowerment and leadership development in the church and the world.

Applications may be obtained by contacting Dr. Sherry L. Townsend at 601 W. Riverview Ave., Dayton, Oh., 45406. Phone: (937) 227-9460. **Deadline for submission is October 30.**

The Central Texas Conference and the Board of Church and Society is sponsoring a **Symposium on Nonviolence March 19-21, 1999 in Fort Worth, Tx.** Each annual conference is invited to participate.

The ecumenical event is also being endorsed by the Fort Worth Area Catholic Diocese and the General Board of Church and Society.

"It is our hope that local churches and conferences will discover that there is something they can do about violence in our society and in their communities," said Annette Vanzant Williams, associate director of Central Texas' Council on Ministries. For more information, contact Williams at (800) 460-8622.

**The Baddour Center**, a home for adults with mental retardation, is currently recruiting new members for its **traveling choir, "The Miracles."** The center is located in Senatobia, Ms., and is affiliated with the Mississippi Conference.

Interested individuals must be adults with mental retardation, possess musical ability and be interested in becoming a resident or day client of The Baddour Center.

Further information may be obtained by calling (601) 562-9666, ext. 1-231.

**The United Methodist Task Force on Developmental Disabilities** held its seventh annual meeting in Minneapolis, Minn., in July.

The task force is currently completing a **resource packet** which will include selected bibliographies of written and video materials, a theological statement, camping resources and model integrative programs. The packet is designed for use by conference resource centers, the chairs of conference and district committees on disability, local churches and other interested persons. Copies may be obtained by contacting Pat Cook at (913) 682-8517.

The task force is sponsored by the Health and Welfare Ministries Program Dept., General Board of Global Ministries.

## Summit highlights needs of children

by Carol Stewart  
Ruston District Communication Advisor

The future of Louisiana United Methodism is centered on our response to children and youth, according to Bishop Dan Solomon in his address to the North Louisiana Summit on Children in Need held Sept. 12 at Trinity UMC, Ruston.

Bishop Solomon challenged over three hundred attendees to focus on ministries geared to this age group for "followship" and the future.

Spirit Wind Youth Choir of Trinity UMC, directed by Micky Cloud, opened the session. Keynote speaker, Ron Anderson, labeled children and youth as the "architects of tomorrow" and challenged the group to dream of a new Louisiana and America where these young people are seen as "possibilities, not liabilities." Workshops were presented in the areas of abuse, conflict resolution, gangs, special care and teaching parenting skills.

Anderson is director of the Lighthouse in Shreveport, a division of Volunteers of America. His address was aimed at inspiring United Methodist leaders to model optimism, hope and promise to our youth and to educate in faith as visionaries. He witnesses the changes that come to young lives because of love applied through the leadership of caring adults who sense their needs and respond with a hands-on approach.

The large group of United Methodists from North Louisiana were motivated to



Bishop Dan Solomon (left), Ron Anderson and Rev. Fred Wideman led the Summit.



Workshop participants learned how to address children's special needs.

learn more about the children and youth in their individual communities and to accept the role of mentor. They were able to understand Anderson's suggestion: "Our children are the message we send to a time we will not see."

The summit was successful in the sharing of resources. It was agreed that the Louisiana Conference needs to lead the United Methodist effort to affect change in America.

"When we follow children, we are led into the future," Bishop Solomon said.

## La. UM Women hold 25th Annual Meeting

Over 400 participants gathered for the 25th annual meeting of the Louisiana Conference United Methodist Women Sept. 18-19.

This year's theme, "Laborers into His Harvest," served to remind that all are laborers for God as the work in mission is accomplished.

The conference focused mainly on cultivating the desire for new members as well as on reaping the harvest of the present membership.

Joy Solomon, wife of Bishop Dan Solomon, was the keynote speaker and addressed the group at the Friday evening banquet and Saturday morning session. Solomon has taken an active role in fighting the "War on Drugs" and in combating illiteracy. She is a strong advocate for children.

Her remarks made everyone present keenly aware of the needs of children and the need for every member of UMW

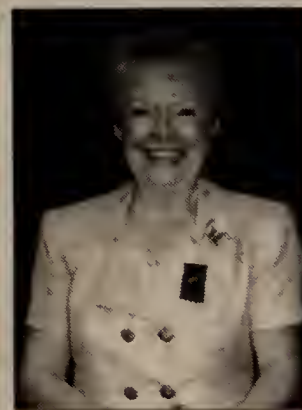
to support programs that aid children.

Conference President Eloise Sanders presided over the meeting, with Rev. Fred Wideman, senior pastor of Trinity UMC; Ruston District President Maxie Garrett; Rev. Jimmie D. Pyles, district superintendent; Kitty DeFreese, president of Trinity UMW, welcoming attendees.

Kathleen C. Conrad, South Central Jurisdiction Member Core Planning Committee gave the Friday opening devotional. HESSIE G. WATSON lighted the Mission Candle. Mary Margaret Barr led the service honoring retiring officers. Doris B. Brown, director, Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, conducted the service for the installation of new officers. Norma Simpkins served as song leader. And Dianne Wilkinson and Kaye Wiley assisted with local arrangements.

Annual meeting highlights included the election of new leadership and the burning of the Mission Candle, a tradition for Louisiana Conference UMW. The Mission Candle honors past, present, and future UMW members, mission workers, family and friends of UMW and increases our gift to mission.

The annual meeting offering will be sent undesignated to the Women's Division in honor of Solomon.



Joy Solomon

## ODYSSEY



## FAITH and Reason

Cable Channel \_\_\_\_  
Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. to Noon  
Repeated Fridays, 2 a.m. (ET)

FAITH and REASON Schedule for  
October

**Oct. 8 Does It Really Matter What I Do in Today's World?** (A.J. Levine, Walter Wink)

**Oct. 15 Could Christianity Possibly Be Outdated?** (Calvin Butts, Rebekah Miles)

**Oct. 22 How Does God Control Us?** (Harold Kushner, Phyllis Tickle)

**Oct. 29 How Can Anything Good Come Out of This?** (Harold Kushner, Phyllis Tickle)

Faith and Reason is produced by the D.L. Dykes Foundation in Shreveport and features talks by the late Dr. D.L. Dykes, who was pastor of First UMC, Shreveport, for 30 years.





## AROUND THE CONFERENCE NEWS

### Lutcher UMC turns 100

One hundred years ago this fall, William H. Curtis felt called to establish a church in the town of Lutcher, on the banks of the Mississippi River. Curtis was not a member of the clergy, but he recognized the need for an established place of worship in the new town that was rapidly forming around the thriving Lutcher-Moore Cypress Mill.

Three years later, a beautiful Victorian style sanctuary was completed, built entirely of native heart cypress. It was the first Protestant Church to be established in the River Parishes. In 1992, the historical and architectural significance of the sanctuary was noted when it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

On Sunday, October 11, members of the congregation and their guests will gather at 9 a.m. to worship and celebrate the anniversary of the church's founding. Bishop Dan E. Solomon will preach, and former pastors, the Rev. George Duerson and the Rev. Carol Susan Winn, will also participate in the service. Special music will be presented by Richard and Libby Shackelford of Gonzales and and Dr. Robert Smith of Baton Rouge.

Rev. Alice Wilkinsor Story invites friends and former members to attend the worship service and the reception that will follow. The church is located at 2347 Texas Street, in Lutcher. For more information or directions to the church, call (504) 664-4752.

### Louisiana Conference Edition of the United Methodist Review

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

#### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Dr. Rena Yocom, Director,

Gospel Communications

Bobbie Armstrong, Editor

Dr. Alonzo Campbell

Subscriptions: \$12.50 per year

(Please make checks payable to Louisiana Annual Conference.)

Send subscriptions, news and information to:

Editor

527 North Boulevard

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

1 (888) 239-5286

(225)346-1646, (225) 383-2652 fax

(NEW) e-mail: editor@premier.net

#### On the Web

You can find the Louisiana Annual Conference on the Internet at

<http://www.gbgn-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>

#### DEADLINE FOR:

October 18 Issue—October 5

## St. Mark group aids children in educational crisis

A group at St. Mark UMC in Baton Rouge is concerned that area children keep current on their three "Rs"—reading, writing and arithmetic—and that they steer clear of a fourth: regression.

Many young students often exhibit signs of regression after summer break, says Dollene Sims, general coordinator of the summer enrichment program, an outreach ministry of one of the church's women's group who have taken seriously The Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty.

That is, in the 2-3 month summer break, students lose crucial skills taught in the previous year, necessitating that teachers review old material. Often, as other students move ahead. The ones who have suffered regression fall into an ever-widening pattern of academic deficiency, Sims says.

Long-term effects may include an inability to advance to higher grade levels or to pass courses and examinations required for high school graduation or admission to college or technical schools, she says.

The program, which has just completed its third year, serves children in Pre-K to fourth grade from three schools in the Glen Oaks community in Baton Rouge. The group also provides a nursery program with activities like number and letter recognition. An average of 50 children participated in each of the sessions, which were held from 6-8 p.m. three nights a week

through the month of July. All but one of the volunteer instructors were professional or retired teachers, Sims said.

It's important to reach the children early in their development," Sims says. "We feel like we need to do it with the little ones, because after they get a certain age, they're kind of lost.

If you get a very good foundation with reading and math early, then you can make it. After the third or fourth grades, if that foundation hasn't been laid, further achievement is difficult," she says.

"We don't want our children to be in crisis," she says. "We believe this program is the type of outreach called for in The Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty."

Many of the children in the Glen Oaks community that the program serves do come from less fortunate families, she said.

The church also provides the children with school supplies purchased with donations from the congregation.

In its second year, the program was given a boost by a \$1,000 grant from Special Ministries. Now, however, funding for the program is not secured, Sims said.

Regardless, they are committed to carrying the program forward. "The study group has decided this is something we need to do, and whether we have additional funding or not, we're going to keep doing it."



Children brush up on the three "Rs" during the summer enrichment program at St. Mark UMC.

### Lomax, continued from front page.

includes an ambitious \$2.5 million campus renovation plan, already underway that will provide improved residence hall facilities, campus infrastructure improvements, information technology upgrades and mechanical plant enhancements. Lomax also is seeking funding for a library expansion that would include distance learning technology and support welfare-to-work programming.

The welfare-to-work component is indicative of Lomax's belief that the university must take an active role in the community. Other initiatives supporting that stance are his participation in the Greater New Orleans Education Foundation, which is dedicated to improving public school education in Orleans Parish. Lomax serves as chair of a committee of college and university presidents in New Orleans who are collaborating with the local school system to establish a curriculum that adequately prepares students to pursue higher education.

Dillard is already experiencing a phenomenal growth in enrollment, Lomax says. This fall's registration went from 1,500 to 1,700 students. "One of our

strategies for growing," he says, "is to reconnect with the two denominations or our roots." [Dillard was created by the merger of Straight College (Church of Christ) and New Orleans University (United Methodist)]. Consequently, Dillard now has a Church Relations Office and will be recruiting heavily at local UM churches and also nationally through the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

"I am excited to be a part of building a strong academic institution that balances the spiritual and ethical with the scholarly, addressing the whole need of our students," Lomax says. "I believe that Dillard University can be viewed as equal to any liberal arts institution in the southern United States."

**Editors note:** Everyone is invited to Dr. Lomax's inauguration. Call (504) 286-4711 for information. Dillard University is located at 2601 Gentilly Boulevard in New Orleans.

Remember, your apportionments support this institution and help thousands of students get an education who might otherwise not have the chance to do so.

## In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to: Rev. Carol Heard, pastor, Heflin UMC (Ruston District), on the death of her mother, Mrs. Lora Dell Sander Heard, Sept. 19. Her funeral was held Sept. 21 at Lakeview UMC, Minden.

Rev. Mark Bengé, pastor, North Highlands UMC (Shreveport District), on the death of his father, Mr. Troy Bengé, Sept. 22. His funeral was held Sept. 25 in Winnfield.

## CONFERENCE Program Calendar

### October

- 3-11 VIM, Honduras (Medical)
- 9-10 Local Pastors and Associates Gathering, Conference Center
- 9-10 UMM Mission Retreat at Sager-Brown
- 9-11 SCJ Singles Training Event, Mt. Sequoyah
- 10 Conference Ministry Team Meeting, Conference Center
- 11-17 VIM Heifer Project, Perryville, Ark.
- 13-14 Cabinet Meeting, Baton Rouge
- 14 Disaster Response Pre-Training, Conference Office, Baton Rouge
- 15-16 Louisiana Christian Education Fellowship, Conference Center
- 16 Church Office Professional Seminar, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Conference Center
- 16-17 Disaster Response Training, Hampton Inn, 5 p.m. Fri.-Noon Sat.
- 17 Children in Need Task Force, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Conference Center
- 22-25 Cursillo #68, Conference Center
- 24 Conference Board of Laity Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Conference Center
- 24 Conference Special Ministries Retreat
- 29 CFA Fall Meeting, Conference Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 30-31 District Communication Advisors Training, Baton Rouge
- 31-Nov.6 Council of Bishops





# Louisiana

CONFERENCE

## edition

Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
225.346.1646  
/225.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

018000

Send PS Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

Vol 15 No 22 ■ October 16, 1998

## Louisiana, spared, reaches out to help Hurricane Georges victims

by Joshua Grant Lewis  
Contributing writer

Chainsaws whined early in the morning at a Gulfport, Miss., home, one week after Hurricane Georges wreaked havoc on the Gulf Coast. Members of a Volunteers In Mission team from First UMC, Slidell, cut apart fallen trees and dismantled the rubble of a collapsed garage. They hauled the debris to the roadside, creating more of the piles that by now had become a familiar sight in the area.

Fortunately for these particular residents, a woman living with her elderly mother, none of the trees damaged the house, and they only needed help with the arduous—and, if it had been necessary to hire someone, expensive—job of cleaning up.

The Slidell VIM team, along with a group from Texas, was one of the first out-of-state crews to aid in relief efforts.

The timing was right for this team. They were scheduled to spend the week on a VIM trip to Oklahoma to help a church there complete construction on its fellowship hall.

But, on Saturday the greater New Orleans area braced for disaster as meteorological predictions placed the eye of the storm coming ashore over Slidell. When Georges changed course late Sunday, veering into Mississippi, so did the Slidell team.



Sonny Crawford saws a tree in Gulfport, Miss. uprooted by Hurricane Georges.

"We made a team decision to come out and help UMCOR instead of going on our regular trip. We decided these people needed us more," said Colleen McGary, co-leader of the VIM team.

The fact that the hurricane spared their area factored heavily into the team's decision. "It's gratitude and even a little guilt, if you want to put it that way—very much so," McGary said.

"Because it didn't miss us by much," Carolyn Foster, deacon and education minister at First UMC, chimed in.

The group's work on this trip was markedly different from the building they have done on previous trips, Foster said. "For two years, we've been constructing. Now we're 'de-constructing,'" she said.

Other members of the team present were Herb Babington, John Bland, Sonny Crawford (co-leader), Rich Jeppsen, Leslie Kuntz, Jerry Lee, Mary McClain, Ginger Stevens and Frank Stroup.

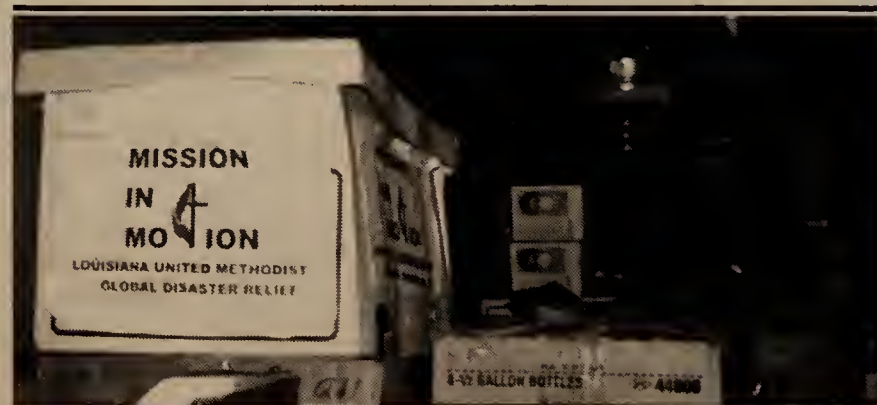
The team was coordinated through Mississippi's branch of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR set up relief operations immediately after the storm cleared, assessing damages and establishing a warehouse and several distribution points at local UM churches where disaster

victims can go for cleaning supplies, diapers, toiletries and other essentials.

Many of the first relief supplies available to the area came from the UMCOR Depot at the Sager-Brown facility in Baldwin and included items collected during the Louisiana Annual Conference's Mission In Motion campaign (photo below).

### A Gratitude Offering: 'It Could Have Been Us'

Churches in the Acadiana, Baton Rouge, New Orleans and North Shore Districts who were spared the wrath of Hurricane Georges are invited to donate their "emergency supplies" which were not used, as well as blankets, cleaning supplies or flood buckets to help replenish the UMCOR Depot in Baldwin. Acadiana churches will deliver them to the Mission in Motion sites. Designated collection points in the other districts are: Baton Rouge—Mission Center; New Orleans—First UMC; North Shore—Church of the Servant's new site on Hwy 190 and Rapatel Street. Donations can be delivered to these collection points on Monday, Oct. 26; they will be trucked to the depot on Oct. 27.



A Louisiana Mission in Motion box sits among the other supplies ready for distribution to those in need in Gulfport, Miss.

Photos this page by Joshua Grant Lewis

## A WORD TO WITNESS

by Rev. Bob Burgess  
Senior Pastor, Broadmoor UMC,  
Baton Rouge

The call came just before noon on Saturday putting us on alert that we may be activated as a "shelter" in the face of the oncoming Hurricane Georges. By noon, calls were being made to the almost 60 volunteers who had been previously trained by the Red Cross for just such an emergency.

At about midnight, Rev. Karl Klaus was called by the Office of Emergency Preparedness, which coordinates the shelters, and told that the first bus would arrive around 2 a.m. Sunday morning. By 2 a.m., the Youth Activities Building was open and ready for the evacuees, manned by the lead crew of volunteers coordinated by Karl Klaus, Dorothy Pruyn and Linda Kersey. (The Emmaus community which had been using the facility was understanding and ended their "Walk" Saturday evening.)

The first bus finally arrived around 7 a.m. Sunday morning with evacuees from a Slidell nursing home. Within the next three hours, residents from two other nursing homes arrived. One busload from New Orleans had been enroute for 16 hours! (New Orleans to Baton Rouge is normally a one-hour trip.)

Please see Witness, page 4.

## INSIDE ...

- 2 Takers or Givers
- 3 And the people said, "Wow!"
- 4 North Shore District News
- 5 Ruston District News
- 6 Shreveport District News
- 8 Gulfside spared





Bishop Dan Solomon

## Being and Doing



### 'Takers or Givers'

A million images and multiple millions of sounds scream at us: "take, take, take." A society obsessed with consuming can justify "taking" without even pausing.

"Grabbing" and "going for it" are phrases that assault our ears, even as seductive images tease our eyes. And the bitter fruit of taking and grabbing and seizing spoils life for so many individuals and families.

Contrast all of that with "giving." There is a quiet, deep fulfillment that marks the lives of givers. These counter-cultural smiling faces move through life with an air of confidence and a demeanor that evokes from all of us appreciation and from some of us even a little envy.

"Givers" become the way they are, not so much because they've reached rational, analytical decisions, but because they have yielded to untamed impulses of generosity and suddenly have been plummeted into experiences similar to fish in water or birds in flight; they were made for this in their very creation.

When Jesus commended the widow who brought her "mite," it was not so much the sacrifice that was touted, but rather her yielding to the impulse of generosity.

This woman, who had every reason to see herself as a "receiver," and who would have been justified in the eyes of so many should she have chosen to be a "taker," was expressing her God-created identity—to be a "giver."

Jesus gives us a human-flesh picture of the recovery of humanity's God-created impulse to be a giver. Rather than thinking equality with God a thing to be "grasped," he emptied himself. Rather

than protecting himself, he gave himself.

Seeing ourselves as "givers" is remarkably empowering. We are no longer "a commodity whose value varies, a vendor who has to obey his buyer" (W. H. Auden). We move beyond passivity into action. We are liberated from a victim mentality and enslavement to "acquiring" to engage in an affirmation of God's creation and God's creatures. The fact is, we become set free, saved and fulfilled.

Many Louisiana United Methodist congregations are significantly involved in "stewardship crusades." If our approach is to talk folks into making a pledge that we then "take," we have perpetuated a consumerist chore. On the other hand, if we invite folks to express their God-created identity to be "givers," we will have opened the door to blessings and peace.

Something significant happened to me in my ministry when I awakened to the fact that the "Fall Finance Crusade" was one of the most spiritual and holy emphases of the entire church year. The more we focused on the spiritual joy and blessing that comes with being a giver, the more our congregation was renewed, enlivened and joyful.

Givers don't wait until "the need" meets their criteria. Givers don't live by transactions. Givers are pro-active signs of who they are—"graced" people saying and living that grace gladly and generously.

Dan E. Solomon

## UN Sunday and UNICEF Month observed

### "Trick of Treat for UNICEF"

October is National UNICEF month. This year, the campaign's focus is childhood malnutrition, which accounts for the deaths of at least seven-million children worldwide every year. By joining the campaign, you are providing your congregation with another opportunity to advance The United Methodist bishops' initiative on children and poverty. "Trick or Treat for UNICEF" information and free materials are available by calling 1-800-252-KIDS.



### United Nations Sunday--Oct. 25

Your church is invited to celebrate United Nations Sunday on Oct. 25. UN Sunday will provide a way to lift up the work and ideals of the United Nations in our churches and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). In fact, 1998 is International Human Rights Year.

United Methodists have a long history of promoting Human Rights. A litany bulletin insert and other information about human rights and the UDHR are available from the United Methodist Office for the United Nations at (212) 682-3633. Their website address is:

[www.umc-gbcs.org/unminstr.htm](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/unminstr.htm)

## Connected Through 'A Portion Meant' for Others A God-planned weekend

by Lora Broussard  
First UMC, Slidell  
North Shore District

My experience with South Louisiana Chrysalis was one of the most powerful weekends of my life. At the time, I was a sophomore in college and I was very distant from God. In the churches I was attending, there was very little spiritual direction for young adults between 18 and 24. It was a very stressful time in my life, and I was reluctant to spend a whole weekend on some religious retreat.

My mother drove me to Denham Springs UMC to attend Chrysalis on a Friday morning; I was very unhappy and felt spiritually dead. When I arrived, I noticed everyone was helping me and encouraging me, even in my wretched mood.

Throughout the weekend, I sat through talks on goals, prayer, marriage and other topics. At first, I didn't even want to sing, but everyone was very loving and uplifting.

Finally, I decided to participate in the discussions and meditations. At this point, I realized that many of the girls

in my group had similar problems, doubts and questions about God and the Bible. We became very connected to each other by making ourselves vulnerable and sharing our pain.

The most wonderful thing about this weekend was the forgiveness service. I felt like God had planned the weekend just for me. At certain parts of the weekend, especially during candlelight ser-



Lora Broussard

vice, I actually, *tangibly* felt the love of Christ. At no other time in my life had I felt so loved and forgiven. I very powerfully felt the presence of the Holy Spirit enter my life. I immediately felt called by God to give my life to him. This was the

beginning of my interest in prison ministry because I want to help people feel what I felt that weekend.

Although life is always a struggle, I have learned that nothing is impossible with God. That weekend changed my life forever. God removed a thick, brick wall that was surrounding my heart. I still continue each day to journey with God and I realize that it is a lifelong journey.

This Chrysalis ministry should be shouted from the mountaintops and supported by ALL!



## Carruth named 'trustee of year'

Dr. Nancy M. Carruth, member of David Haas Memorial UMC, Bunkie, La., was named Trustee of the Year by The United Methodist Foundation for

Christian Higher Education when it met recently in Woodstock, Vermont for its Annual Board Meeting. She is pictured left with Bishop William B. Oden, episcopal leader of the North Texas Annual Conference and former bishop of the Louisiana Conference, who is also a member of the Board. Dr. Carruth was given a beautiful wall clock to commemorate this honor.

As a member of the World Methodist Council, Dr. Carruth led a workshop on trustees at the Higher Education Meeting held this summer at Harlaxton Manor in Grantham, England. The meeting was held in July in connection with the 250th anniversary of Kingswood School, the first school founded by John Wesley.

Dr. Carruth holds several positions in the Louisiana Conference including finance officer of the Board of Laity; she also is a trustee for the Annual Conference and the Conference Center at Woodworth.







# FALL CONVOCAATION 1998



by **Bobbie Armstrong**  
Editor, *LUM Review*

Fall Convocation, Sept. 26, 1998—it was a day of “WOWs” at the Louisiana Conference Center in Woodworth:

■ Despite the looming threat to Louisiana from Hurricane Georges, close to 800 youth and adult workers with youth attended this official kick-off of the Louisiana Annual Conference's Year of the Youth and its focus on Youth in Crisis.

■ 234 pairs of jeans were collected for the UMCOR Depot in Baldwin to be distributed to those in need.

■ Over 200 box lunches—leftover from those who couldn't attend—were donated to the Red Cross.

■ The Impact Teen Theatre, from Hope UMC--Monroe, performed sketches of real-life situations and solutions.

■ Dr. Tex Sample, renowned author and professor of Church and Society at St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, told the youth, “The church needs you and your leadership to reach your generation.”

■ Songwriter, singer Celia Whitler “rocked” the group with her amazing voice and contemporary music.

■ Bishop Dan Solomon shared his “WOWs” with the crowd:

“God created us in *His* image!”

“Jesus said *love* is going to win out.”

“A soul on fire for God is the *most powerful weapon* in the world. Thank you, God, for the *power* in these kids.

“You are the church!”

■ And the people said, “WOW!”



Photo: Bobbie Armstrong and Troy Leger.



## And the people said, ‘WOW!’





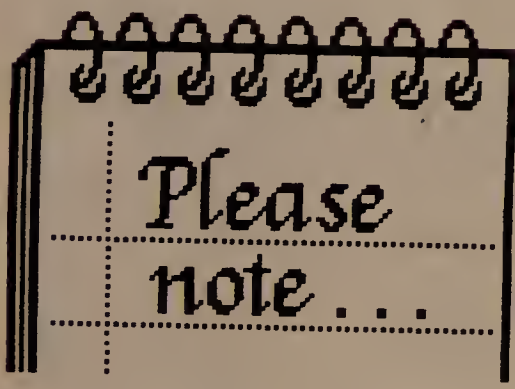
## News from the North Shore



124 Lisa Lane  
Mandeville, LA 70448  
(504) 626-0918

**District Superintendent**  
Dr. Grayson Watson

**Communication Advisor**  
Rev. Wanda Cosentino



Please send articles, stories and pictures to:

**Rev. Wanda Cosentino**  
P.O. Box 563

Greensburg, LA 70441

Any questions? Call (225) 222-3302.

**Deadline for next district page:**  
Nov. 10

## From the desk of the district superintendent: Pentecost continues in NS district

Dr. Grayson B. Watson

My first months serving as new District Superintendent of the North Shore District have been an exciting time. My Shepherd Visits helped me physically to locate all the churches. I also met with the pastors and with hundreds of laity. Meeting that full schedule before Charge Conferences began was demanding, along with everything else a new D.S. must face. It was not only interesting, but great fun, too.

It has been a four month period of time unlike any other in my life. It has reminded me that what happened at the first Pentecost in Jerusalem is continuing here and now in the churches of the North Shore District, regardless of size,



location or circumstance. It is the Gospel realization that the Living Christ still gives life to the dead and makes a new day possible—which is the ground of our hope.

The faithfulness and quality of ministry in this district, in congregations of every size, is truly the gift of God. It affirms the eternal truth that the ministry of each pastor and congregation is rooted in the mystery and wonder of Easter. The stories shared here are just a glimpse of a larger ministry that honors Christ by meeting people at the point of their need and pain.

In the North Shore District, Pentecost certainly continues!

## KIDS HOPE USA One church, one child, one hour = HOPE

By Rev. Wanda Cosentino  
North Shore District Communication Advisor

KIDS HOPE USA is a new program which has taken flight at Hammond First UMC. This organization is changing the face of Christian involvement in public schools. It's helping churches turn the heads of public school officials statewide, while turning around the lives of at-risk children.

KIDS HOPE USA joins neighborhood churches with local elementary schools in a labor of love. Members of sponsoring churches donate one hour of their week to meet with at-risk students, developing one-to-one relationships with the students and helping them master critical academic skills. Above all, church members let the students know that someone cares.

The program can be distilled to three components: one church, one child, one hour. One church adopts the program and coordinates with a local elementary school for one at-risk elementary school

child in need of a friend. And 60 minutes spent each week transforms not only the life of the child, but of the church volunteer and an assigned prayer partner also.

When a church signs on to become a KIDS HOPE congregation, the staff of KIDS HOPE USA will come in and do some initial steps in laying the groundwork for the ministry and providing the church with a reality check against "good intentions."

They will convene the church leadership to explore two basic issues: 1) Does the church have access to at-risk children, and 2) will the church embrace a vision for at-risk children and their families.

Pastor Bill Eubanks says things are all ready in place for the new director to attend the

training necessary to begin this program.

If your church is looking for a way to reach out into your community and give these children a vision of what faith-based outreach can do, contact First UMC, Hammond at (504) 345-2196.



from

OUR CHURCH TO YOURS

## Pine Ridge begins deaf ministry

Pine Ridge UMC has begun a ministry to those who are deaf. Pastor Louis Coppage says the church is indebted to Mrs. Jessie Travis-Gill for making this ministry possible. The ministry began at Pine Ridge on August 16.

Mrs. Travis-Gill has a son and daughter-in-law who are deaf and they have friends who live in the area who are also deaf. Mrs. Travis-Gill has been able to find an interpreter, Mrs. Cheryle Santangelo, who will come one Sunday each month so that the deaf can know what is being said at the services. Every third Sunday, this ministry is available to those who are deaf. It will also be available on other special occasions.



Along with a New Life Fellowship Center, a new lighted sign has been installed at Live Oak UMC in Watson.

The sign was given as a memorial to Warren "Bunkie" Foster by his family. Pastor Mark Crosby (left), along with Mrs. Lillian Foster (widow of Mr. Foster) and James King, a family member who was instrumental in designing and purchasing the sign, are pictured above.



# GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

*Nurtures the Body and Soul*

**Lafon Nursing Home**

**Pendleton Memorial  
Methodist Hospital**

**Peoples United Methodist  
Community Center**

## *Agencies Benefit From Volunteer Services*

# Methodist Volunteers Are Good Samaritans In Action

**A**re you a Good Samaritan? Would you stop along the road and help someone in trouble? Would you offer that individual a ride? What would you do?

These days, it is difficult - and possibly unwise - to be the Good Samaritan we read about in the New Testament's often-repeated parables. "You don't have to literally adhere to that parable to be a Good Samaritan," says Chaplain Judy Nelson of Pendleton Memorial Methodist Hospital in New Orleans. "There are thousands of ways to follow that example of kindness, compassion and care in our everyday lives."

At Methodist Hospital, Lafon Nursing Home and Peoples United Methodist Community Center hundreds of volunteers regularly extend their spiritual commitment and concern for the community. Their activities range from visiting the sick and elderly to delivering flowers and mail to hospital patients.

Good Samaritan Dorothy spends ten hours a week in Methodist Hospital's family lounge outside surgery. In a calm, soothing voice she answers questions and communicates the status of patients to families filled with anxiety about a loved one.

Good Samaritan Evelyn is the mother of two daughters and a grandmother to three energetic boys. Although she admits that she doesn't know everything there is to know about raising children, she knows they need attention and then more attention. As a volunteer and member of the Auxiliary for Peoples, she demonstrates that knowledge each time she helps a child onto a slide on the Peoples' playground or assists a three-year old in practice writing his name.

Good Samaritan Joyce has a beautiful voice. "God gave me this talent and I feel it is important to share it with others," she says. Several times a year Joyce joins a group of her friends and church members to sing for the Lafon Nursing Home residents. "Singing is my greatest joy," she comments. "But it is ever so more joyful to see the smiles we bring to the Lafon community. And when someone sings along with us, there is no greater reward."

"Methodists are active, energetic and enthusiastic volunteers in all areas of the community," says Chaplain Nelson. "When they bring much-needed assistance and support to hospitals, nursing homes and child care centers, they provide both material and spiritual support, extending God's love and

sharing the mission of the Methodist Church."

"Not everyone can be a Good Samaritan by donating volunteer service hours," she continues. "As members of the United Methodist Church, however, we can bring assistance to others by contributions to the Good Samaritan Fund. Together, our individual donations can go a long way in enriching the physical, spiritual, educational and social needs of others."

Methodist Hospital Chaplain Paul Durbin explains that the Good Samaritan Fund, derived from annual appeals on the last Sunday in October and at Easter time, assists individuals and families, enhancing the work of volunteers and the thousands of hours they donate each year. Agencies benefiting from the collection include Peoples United Methodist Community Center, Pendleton Memorial Methodist Hospital and the Lafon Nursing Home. Founded on the same principles of caring, sharing and providing support, the agencies are also supported by Methodists from throughout the state. Additionally, members of the Methodist Church are actively involved in the day-to-day operations of each facility as volunteers, Auxiliary members and board members.

# Methodist Hospital

**"T**hanks to the generosity of members of the United Methodist Church, the Good Samaritan Fund at Methodist is an economical and spiritual gift to hundreds of individuals," says Chaplain Durbin. "Helping people in times of need is fundamental to the ministry of the United Methodist Church and to our hospital, the only Methodist healthcare facility in Louisiana. The Fund provides financial assistance for a patient's physical concerns with our prayers and counseling supporting the spiritual aspects of healing."

*"Over the years, several Good Samaritan recipients have joined the hospital volunteer corps to demonstrate their thanks as well as to take a turn helping others."*

All donations to the Good Samaritan Fund go directly to financial assistance for those who demonstrate eligibility for help. The Fund only offers partial assistance, however, and usually does not cover all the charges an individual incurs for medical services.

"The more resources we receive, the more people we can assist," Chaplain Durbin states.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of managing the Good Samaritan Fund is the opportunity to share with others," says Chaplain Durbin. "We often see that patients who have benefited from the Fund in the past find a way to contribute themselves once their lives have taken a more positive turn. Over the years, several Good Samaritan recipients have joined the hospital volunteer corps to demonstrate their thanks as well as to take a turn helping others."

Methodist Auxiliary members and volunteers are similarly motivated. Charter Member of the Methodist Hospital Auxiliary and gift shop volunteer Lucinda Bynum, for example. "I belong to the United Methodist Church," she says, explaining her original interest in joining the first group of women forming the Auxiliary. As a member

of Brooks Methodist Church, she felt it was important to demonstrate her faith at another level of caring. As a business woman, she recognizes the need for healthcare services in East New Orleans.

But it was a personal experience with illness, however, that

propelled Bynum into volunteering several years ago. "My husband was hospitalized," she says. "Even though he was not at Methodist, I recognized the value of helping patients and wanted to give something back in appreciation for his recovery."



*It's not just flowers. Methodist Hospital patients welcome visits from volunteers, who also deliver comforting comments and warm smiles.*



# Lafon Nursing Home

**T**here is nothing more exhilarating than to see our residents having a good time, laughing and enjoying a special treat, whether it's a visit from a school choir or an elaborate 100th birthday celebration," says Lafon Nursing Home Director Sandy Lang.

"Our staff is wonderful but we can't do it all," he says. "Area churches, schools and the Lafon Auxiliary help us deliver the extras that contribute to the emotional and spiritual quality of life. The visits from church groups, school children, and the special celebrity guests that we have from time to time are donations of time that are difficult to measure in terms of a monetary value."

Like any non-profit facility, however, the Lafon Home needs financial support. "Donations from the Good Samaritan Fund and our Auxiliary's support are true blessings for our residents," Lang says. The Lafon Auxiliary, under the direction of President Hazel Webster, is currently preparing for its annual fund-raising event to provide equipment for the Home and assist residents with special needs.

The Lafon Nursing Home was founded more than 120 years ago by Mother Eliza Gant and Mrs. Sara Robinson who joined together, rented a house on Rampart Street in New Orleans and established the "Methodist Asylum." Five years later, in 1872, when it looked like the home might have to shut its doors, a black metal artist, Thomy Lafon, generously donated ten thousand dollars to keep the home open. In gratitude, the name was changed to

the "The Lafon Home." Although the facility has relocated several times over the years, it has remained constant in its mission of serving as a haven for those in need of care. The

home is recognized for its personalized nursing care, an outstanding dietary service, daily exercise classes, social services, spiritual counseling and its special events.



*Lafon Nursing Home volunteers attend a special recognition luncheon in honor of their dedication and support.*

# Peoples Community Center

**W**ant to help youngsters in the earliest stages of development? The Ruth B. Carter Auxiliary for Peoples offers opportunities for financial support and volunteer assignments at the Center along with several social and fund-raising events throughout the year.

"Our volunteers are hard-working, dedicated individuals who carry out the Methodist ministry of helping others," says Executive Director Rev. Marva Mitchell. "In addition to knowing that they are helping to prepare children for future success, they are meeting new people and enjoying themselves."

Established in 1922, Peoples has traditionally helped families and children in the inner city areas of New Orleans. By offering quality, affordable child care to low-income families, the Center is often the key in helping parents seek or maintain employment, continue education, learn a skill and progress toward a better life. The facility is Class A licensed by the State of Louisiana and is a United Way agency.

For more than three quarters of a century, Peoples has maintained its mission and kept its focus on the needs of children, aged two to four, and their families, in a quality, nurturing, caring and safe environment. "We continue a history of serving those who are living in poverty and at risk - the working poor, the single parent, the homeless, the job seekers, those continuing their education and those who want their children to acquire a head start in preparation for kindergarten," Rev. Mitchell emphasizes.

In addition to meeting the cognitive, motor sensory and social skills of each child, Peoples provides Early Learning Development programs, recreational activities and a summer camp for boys and girls aged five to 12.

"The goal at Peoples is to educate the young," Rev. Mitchell emphasizes. "But we can only continue with the prayers, the volunteer assistance and financial support of others," she says. "The Good Samaritan Fund is included as a line item for the Center's budget. Donations to the Fund keep our doors open and our classrooms equipped with the basic tools for learning. Volunteer service hours and the ongoing support of our Auxiliary ensure that the children of today will achieve success in the years ahead."

*The fundamentals of education for today's children include computer knowledge. Thanks to recent donations, Peoples Community Center is now incorporating computer time into its comprehensive learning program for youngsters.*



**"A very special thank you to all those who participate in these facilities as volunteers or with donations to the Good Samaritan Fund," Chaplain Durbin emphasizes. "Peoples United Methodist Community Center, Methodist Hospital and the Lafon Nursing Home were founded on the Good Samaritan principle of helping others. Your assistance is vital to this continuing service of our Methodist Church. Your financial gifts, volunteer service and your ongoing prayers will help the lives of many."**





## Welcome to ...



Meet Molly Belcher, Ruston District's new secretary and administrative assistant to District Superintendent Jimmie Pyles. Molly graduated from Homer High School and Louisiana Tech University. Her husband, Gene, has been employed by the Methodist Children's Home in Ruston for nearly 20 years. They are the parents of two sons, Brandon, age 13, and Kevin, age 10.



Eddie Rushing is the new pastor at Pine Grove UMC. He is new to the ministry. Welcome, Eddie!

### Ruston has new district office



Come by and visit the new Ruston District Office located at the corner of U.S. Highway 167 South and Vaughn.

## Send us your news!

We need your church news and pictures! Please send them to:  
Carol Stewart  
2013 Highway 794  
Gibbsland, LA 71028  
E-mail: [stew@iamerica.net](mailto:stew@iamerica.net)  
(318) 843-6329



## CHURCH IN FOCUS: Grace UMC, Ruston

### Paint Party a success

The First Annual Grace United Methodist Men's Paint Party was a huge success! As a summer project, the United Methodist Men of Grace UMC in Ruston volunteered to re-paint the gym at the Methodist Children's Home in Ruston.

Work got underway on Friday, Aug. 7 with volunteers showing up to put down drop cloths and setting up scaffolding. With extra time on their hands, the five-man crew decided to start work and completed a majority of the project Friday night.

Other volunteers showed up on Saturday morning to help finish the project. They included members of Grace's UMM and UMW groups; Dr. Alan Einsel, pastor and Louisiana Conference UMM president, Jay Hinckley.

The Grace UMM are proud to announce the success of their first project. They were able to complete the project early in the afternoon and leave with more paint on the walls than on themselves. A special thanks to all who were involved.

### Educational opportunities offered to all ages

Christian Education experiences are offered on Wednesday evening for children, youth, and adults at Grace UMC in

Ruston this fall.

Children are offered two programs focusing on Bible activities and lessons, games, music, and refreshments. "God's Property" is for four-year-olds through fourth graders; YMCA (Young Methodist Children's Association) is for fifth and sixth graders. Parent leadership and support play a role in the success of this program directed by the Children's Council.

Youth (seventh through twelfth graders) are invited to "conversation time" with the youth director after school on Wednesdays followed by a Bible Study for an hour. The focus of the twelve-week course will be "Getting It Together." Donna Hammons, youth and education director, will lead the Bible Study and fellowship time.

An adult education program called "Adult Alternatives" is being offered for an hour on Wednesday nights and will consist of short term courses of study. The fall courses include a four-week session on "Doing the Faith: the Book of James." It will be followed by a four-week focus on "The Sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion," and a three-week Advent study entitled "Preparing for the Messiah." Leaders for the courses will be Dr. Alan Einsel, pastor, and Rev. Barbara Einsel, liturgist. Interested adults of all ages are invited to participate.

## Answering the call to ministry

by Rev. Fred Wideman, Pastor  
Trinity UMC, Ruston

There are some things people do because it is part of their personality. There are some things people do because it is part of their culture or tradition. There are some things people do because they are paid to do them. There are some things people do because, through fear or guilt, they are forced to do them.

Then there are the things that people do for which they are not paid, that are not necessarily part of their personality, culture or tradition, are not forced and are not particularly pleasant. These things can only be explained by a call.

God calls people to all types of service. This type of service is called ministry.

Martin Luther taught us that in each of our baptisms there is a call to ministry, a "mini-ordination," that authorizes us as disciples and servant leaders in the body called the Church. Every baptized member of the Church is a minister.

Our Book of Discipline states that within this general ministry, there are those who are called to a particular ministry and set apart for their specific work. Some are called into ordained ministry, a ministry of preaching the Word, teaching the Word, and administering the sacraments.



Rev. Fred Wideman

There is a long process in becoming an ordained United Methodist minister. It requires four years of undergraduate work, four years of seminary, and three years of probationary

work following seminary.

At the present time, there are seven persons related to Trinity United Methodist Church in Ruston who are in some part of the process of ordained ministry. They are Clay McConnell, Beth Love, Ben McGehee, Chris Simmons, Donnie Wilinon, Scott Wright and Verna Myers. Clay and Beth are presently in seminary. Ben, Chris, and Donnie are heading to seminary. Scott has graduated from seminary and is now completing probationary work. Verna is attending local pastor school and also serving as the Ruston District Missioner.

Trinity is proud of these leaders and grateful for their answering God's call.

RUSTON DISTRICT NEWS

RDN

901 S. Vienna  
Ruston, LA 71270  
(318) 255-2690

**District Superintendent**  
Rev. Jimmie D. Pyles  
**Communication Advisor**  
Carol Stewart

## N. La. Summit host says thank you



A participant at the Summit learns parenting skills with a "practice" doll.

Dear Friends,

The congregation and pastor of Trinity UMC want to express our deepest appreciation for the support and prayers received while organizing the North Louisiana Summit on Children in Need held Sept. 12 at Trinity. Thanks to our committee and attendees, the summit was a huge success!

We want to encourage everyone to continue praying for each individual who attended, that they will be equipped with the necessary tools to go back to their home churches and develop and implement at least one new mission to help our children in need. What develops from this point will be the true measure of success. May God use us to help the children. --Rev. Fred Wideman





## Shreveport District News

2911 Centenary Boulevard  
P.O. Box 41188  
Shreveport, LA 71134  
(318) 869-4568

**Dr. Bobby Potter**  
District Superintendent

**Rev. Dale Hensarling**  
District Communication Advisor

### District UMW mini-school attendance increased

With more than seventy participants, this year's district UMW Mini-school of Missions topped the previous year's enrollment by more than ten persons, according to Nan Bland, Shreveport District president. The school was hosted by North Highlands and Lakeview UMCs.

Bland asks local units to submit their officer rolls to Joyce Lilly Stevenson, P.O. Box 309, Mansfield, LA, 71052, in order to have them included in the conference directory.

The District UMW Annual meeting, co-hosted by St. James UMC women, was held Sunday, Oct. 11 at First UMC, Shreveport. Leaders' Training will be held Saturday, Nov. 7, at Mangum UMC. Make sure your leaders represent you at this event so they can return well-equipped for the coming year!

Following are nominees for election as District Officers for 1999:

#### Mission Coordinators

Tommie Pepper, Bettye Moore, Virginia McConnell

#### Sub-district Leaders

#1: Wanda Simons # 2: Shirley Ledbetter #3: Melva Scott.

**Committee on Nominations, Class of 2002:** Earlene Mullen, Kathryn Rash, Yvonne Young.

## IdeaNet at Broadmoor UMC featured leading educators

by Rev. Dale Hensarling  
District Communication Advisor

Bonnie Daniel, director of Programs and Children's Ministry at Broadmoor UMC, Shreveport, has announced that IdeaNet, held Aug. 14-15, was a grand success.

Designed for Christian education personnel, both professional and lay, to gain advice and share ideas and experiences. The workshop reached nearly 70 people in various forms of ministries with children. Teachers exchanged methods for teaching children using games, drama, music and crafts in the "ideashops" (rather than "workshops") held during the event.

Leading educators in the field were the guest speakers. On Friday night, following dinner, Rebecca Barns, director of Children and Family Ministries at First UMC, Shreveport, was the featured speaker. A licensed professional counselor, Rebecca holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and endorsement from the School of Church Careers at Centenary College. She also has a master's of education degree from Oklahoma City University and attended Duke University and Perkins School of Theology.

"I have always had a passion for children," Barns said. "I can't imagine doing anything other than advocating—especially for the spiritual and emotional growth of children." The mother of boys ages six and four, she is writing a book

entitled *Child-like Reactions in an Adult-like World: Understanding the Challenges and Importance of Teaching Spiritual and Emotional Values to Children in Today's World*.

Saturday's activities included a presentation from music teacher Donna Snell, a childhood music specialist from Bay City, Texas. Snell teaches music and "creative play" classes to three- and four-year olds and kindergartners at the Sunshine and Rainbows Academy, a church-affiliated pre-school. She also directs two children's ecumenical church choirs in the Bay City area. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Bay City Festival Arts Association, where she chairs the Young People's Theater. Snell captured the imaginations and won the hearts of participants with her presentations on children's music.

Ideashop leaders on Saturday included Nan Bland, Noel UMC; Kathy Wafer, Caddo Parish school teacher; Mary Jarvis Broadmoor UMC; Sue Kamm, Noel UMC; and Billie Logan, First UMC, Bossier City.

Ideanet was open to anyone who teaches children in any setting. It was a remarkable opportunity for churches and staff to strengthen and create communication networks which strengthen the quality of education in our churches, pre-schools, kindergartens and day-care centers.

For more info on IdeaNet, call Mary Jarvis at (504) 861-0586.

## First UMC, Shreveport ornament begins series for DSU



Downtown Shreveport Unlimited, a nonprofit membership organization whose purpose is to encourage progress and economic development in Downtown

Shreveport, has chosen First UMC, Shreveport, as the landmark for its first Shreveport Christmas ornament.

First UMC operated as a station church on the Greenwood-Shreveport Circuit from the 1830s and established its first building in 1845 on Market Street between Travis and Fannin. Through the years, many buildings were added, but when the steeple was added during Holy Week in 1972, First UMC created a landmark that reminds every resident of Shreveport that the community is built on spiritual values, according to DSU literature.

DSU will continue producing these keepsakes using a different historical building each year. The funds collected will be used to improve downtown. The cost of the ornament is \$6.95.

For information about stores carrying the ornament or for quantity discounts, contact Melanie Bacon at (318) 222-7403.

## Pumpkin patches, fall bazaars spring up in district



No, it's not the "Great Pumpkin," Charlie Brown. It's the "Sweet Pumpkin," Dana Lenore Melton, sitting in the pumpkin patch at Asbury UMC, Bossier City. The pumpkin patch is open until Oct. 31 at 3200 North Airline Highway.

Fall is in the air; the leaves begin to turn, and the frost *isn't* on the pumpkin. But, the pumpkins are on the ground at United Methodist churches around the Shreveport District. The following churches are purveying pumpkins to add to the holiday spirit in homes throughout the area.

**St. Luke's UMC**--6012 Youree Drive--now through October 31

**Summer Grove UMC**--9119 Dean Road--now through October 31

**Mangum UMC**--3939 Pines Road--now through October 17

**Asbury, UMC**--3200 North Airline Drive, Bossier City--now through October 31

These district churches are offering neat things for sale in bazaar fashion! Be sure to mark your calendar for these opportunities to support the mission of these congregations, while you work your way down your Christmas list!

**Lakeview UMC**, Nov. 22 and Dec. 20--bake sale for missions.

**Benton UMC**, Nov. 14--Holiday Bazaar for missions, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.



# MENTIONINGS

The Louisiana Conference Center presents "A Christian Family Celebration," a special Thanksgiving homecoming, **Nov. 25-28.**

The center invites folks to bring their families and enjoy peace and tranquility during the Thanksgiving holiday by letting them prepare the food, provide the setting and entertainment at an affordable price.

The total package costs \$165 per room and includes three nights and four days of activities and 14 meal tickets. Each deluxe room contains two double beds. The fun will include outdoor activities such as basketball, volleyball and hiking and indoor activities such as table tennis, videos and big screen TV for football games.

Reservations can be made by calling (318) 449-4500. Reservation deadline is Nov. 1.



Youth and young adults will have an opportunity to enrich their relationship with God and discern whether they are being called to ordained ministry at a national churchwide event set for **Nov. 13-15 in Los Angeles.**

The three-day **Exploration '98** event is designed to challenge young people, ranging from high school juniors to 24-year-olds, to explore their gifts for ordained ministry as deacons or elders in The United Methodist Church. The event will be held at the Los Angeles Airport Hilton and Towers.

The Exploration event is a biennial convocation sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to help young people learn to hear and respond to God's call to a church vocation.

Under the theme, "Light the Fire. . . God's Call to the Ordained Ministry," the ministry of word, sacrament, order and service will be examined by leaders in the church, in theology and in biblical study. The event also will explore ministerial challenges in the next millennium.

For more information, contact the Division of Ordained Ministry, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry at (615) 340-0871.

## Supportive Congregation

### Louisiana Conference creates close ties with congregation of First UMC, Ekaterinburg

by Dr. James W. Gillespie  
Chair, Russia Program Committee,  
Louisiana Conference

The history of the connection between the Louisiana Conference of the UMC and the First UMC of Ekaterinburg, Russia, dates back to 1991. Many mission trips have focused on Vacation Bible Schools, teacher training, spiritual seminars and Bible studies for Russian church members.

Louisiana UMs prepared and delivered food and medical supplies which were contributed by many congregations throughout the US during a critical time.

Members of the Ekaterinburg church have also visited Louisiana many times to fellowship in local UM churches. This past summer, ten youth from the Ekaterinburg church visited Louisiana for three weeks to share in worship and youth experiences with Louisiana UM youth.

A particularly noteworthy event took place three years ago, when the Louisiana Conference provided financial and leadership support for 14 members of the First UMC of Ekaterinburg to participate in the Walk to Emmaus. As Russian and American UMs joined together to worship and praise God, new ground was broken in the tradition of international Methodism!

The conference has also provided financial support for three young mem-



bers of the Ekaterinburg church to attend and graduate from Centenary College in Shreveport. All three graduated with honors. One of the three has recently returned to Ekaterinburg to serve as a district youth evangelist.

With support and leadership from Bishop Dan Solomon, the conference is currently providing salaries for three Russian UM ministers and is taking a leading role in the construction of a new church in Ekaterinburg. This new structure has a future completion date of early 1999.

This past summer a delegation of lay people from the conference traveled to Ekaterinburg to spend five days expressing and sharing their faith. In addition to taking medical supplies and insulin, they worshipped with a new congregation of United Methodists who were meeting for the first time in Pervouralsk, and also met with members of the Ekaterinburg church for Bible study groups and worship services.

As the windows of opportunity continue to be open in Russia, it is hoped that the Spirit of God will continue to blow across the countryside of Russia. The future of Methodism in Russia is now!

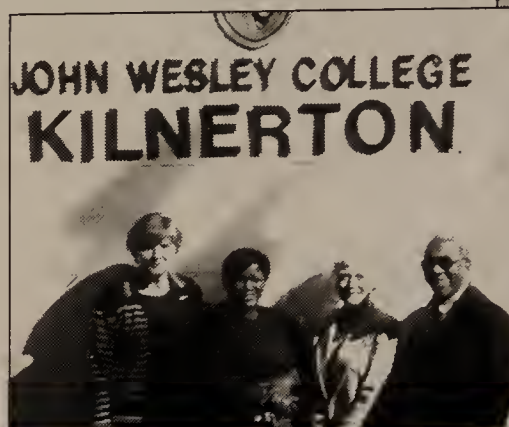
Reprinted from *Russia Initiative Update!*, Sept. 1998.

## Memoirs from Africa: Poverty shock

In July, the six-member Louisiana Conference Tennis Shoe Delivery Team visited Angola to place on the feet of children in Africa tennis shoes collected at the Annual Conference Special Session on Children in Need last October. This is the fifth LUM Review feature of each team member's account of the trip.

Before entering Angola, the team spent a few days visiting UM facilities in South Africa. This is a portion of Rev. James Haynes photographic journal of that journey.

by Rev. James Haynes  
Pastor, St. Mark UMC, Baton Rouge



We had an opportunity to visit John Wesley College in Kilnerton, Pretoria, South Africa, (above) one of the greatest Methodist institutions prior to its apartheid-forced closing in 1950.



But, here I am, in 1998, a black pastor, standing in the pulpit of the Methodist Church on that campus (above).



After leaving South Africa, we traveled northwest to Luanda, Angola. It was here that I experienced culture shock. As we rode through the city, I witnessed poverty as I have never seen before. We saw thousands upon thousands of our brothers and sisters living in the little shacks without water or electricity. Little children, naked or barely clothed, played along litter-strewn roads or tried to sell goods to anyone passing by. Some splashed in or drank from filthy puddles.

The only relief from this chaos in the city were the UMC "Center of Hope" and "Center of Joy," where some of the children are cared for, educated and taught useful skills such as sewing or woodworking.



At a settlement area north of Luanda, refugees, who because of the invasion of rebel forces had fled their homes with only the clothes on their backs, were trying to build homes with trees, grass and straw. Many of the children there had been separated from their families and did not know if they would ever find them again.

It is heartbreaking to see so many children in so much poverty. We may not be able to change all the poverty, but we can do a lot to change the circumstances that lead to poverty. At least, I am challenged to do what I can.





## AROUND THE CONFERENCE NEWS

### Churches celebrate as VBS partnership turns 10

By Rev. Brunetta A. Shamlin  
Christian Education Director

Ten years ago Neely and First UMCs in Baton Rouge became partners in Neely's annual vacation Bible school. This partnership has grown through the years with Gwynn Shamlin, Sunday school



superintendent at Neely, helping co-directors from each church plan and implement the activities of this ministry.

Ministers from both churches conduct the devotion each day. Neely's VBS now has 130 members. The classes include members from both churches of all ages.

The churches recently held a picnic to celebrate the anniversary.

Pictured above from left to right are: Larry Hamilton (co-director), Lucy Boullier, Gwynn Shamlin (Sunday School superintendent) and James Lafleur (co-director).

### Louisiana Conference Edition of the United Methodist Review

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

#### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Dr. Rena Yocom, Director,

Gospel Communications

Bobbie Armstrong, Editor

Joshua Grant Lewis, Contributing Writer

Dr. Alonzo Campbell

Subscriptions: \$12.50 per year

(Please make checks payable to Louisiana Annual Conference.)

Send subscriptions, news and information to:

Editor

527 North Boulevard

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

1 (888) 239-5286

(225)346-1646, (225) 383-2652 fax

(NEW) e-mail: editor@premier.net

#### On the Web

You can find the Louisiana Annual Conference on the Internet at

<http://www.gbmg-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>

#### DEADLINE FOR:

October 30 Issue—October 19

## Gulfside Assembly damage minimal

Gulfside Assembly in Waveland, near Bay St. Louis, Miss., escaped the fury of Hurricane Georges with relatively little damage.

"We were blessed this time," said Marian T. Martin, executive director of the assembly, a campsite of the South Central Jurisdiction.

Upon returning from the evacuation, staffers found the worst damage to be a handful of broken storm windows and shingles ripped from the roofs. There was no flooding. Two trees succumbed to the winds, but fortunately none hit the buildings. However, the grounds—like

everywhere else on the Mississippi Gulf Coast—were blanketed with branches.

But life at the assembly carried on without interruption. "We just picked up, had a group in here this weekend. It wasn't enough damage to keep us from continuing our regular programming," Martin said.

Gulfside is celebrating its 75th anniversary Oct. 31. with the reenactment of a 1940's "Walk in the Light." The activities will honor Bishop Leontine Kelly and will feature Rev. Cynthia Wilson-Felder as musical leader. Call (228) 467-5252 for details.



Herb Babington and Carolyn Foster of First UMC, Slidell, dismantle a garage destroyed by Hurricane Georges when it crossed Gulfport, Miss.

Photo by Joshua Grant Lewis

### Witness, from front page.

We had been designated as a shelter for handicapped and "special needs" persons which brought a whole new dimension to being a shelter. But the Broadmoor teams were up for the challenge. Workers who had been scheduled for eight-hour shifts were faithful as the shelter was manned around the clock. Not only were we providing "shelter," but it was obvious to me that through these volunteers we were providing the needed love, care and understanding for these 104 patient/evacuees! An administrator of one of the nursing homes who said he had gone through a half-a-dozen of these evacuations stated that our shelter and workers were the most organized and caring he had encountered.

It all began a long time ago when a decision was made to commit to be a

"shelter" in the time of a crisis/emergency. Preparation and training took place a while back when 60 or so individuals committed themselves to be workers in the shelter. Broadmoor was prepared and our people were faithful. A covenant made with the Office of Emergency Preparedness and the Red Cross was kept faithfully!

The words, "well done, good and faithful servant" seem to be appropriate for all who were a part of this ministry of compassion. "In as much as you have done it to one of the least of these my brothers, you have done it unto me." I believe our Lord was pleased with the faithful response. I thank you all for the untiring and efficient response to some very "special" people in need.

Reprinted from THE BEACON, Oct. 9

## In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to: Rev. Rhonda Feurtado, pastor, Lecompte-Bayou Chicot-Cheneyville (Alexandria District), on the death of her father, Oct. 4. His funeral was held Oct. 6 in Honduras.

Rev. John Lee, retired associate pastor, First UMC, Slidell (North Shore District), on the death of his mother, Mrs. Alberta "Mimi" Lee, Sept. 28. Her funeral was held Oct. 1 in Shreveport.

## Coming soon

The Methodist Hospital Auxiliary will present its annual **Fashion Show and Luncheon Monday, Nov. 9**, in the Imperial Ballroom of the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans.

For more information, call (504) 244-5200. Proceeds will benefit Pendleton Memorial Methodist Hospital.

Read all about it! The deadline has been extended in the **The LUM Review subscription sales competition** for church youth in the Baton Rouge District. **The contest now ends Nov. 29.** Prizes are \$25 to the youth who sells the most subscriptions and a night out for the youth group selling the most Forms may still be picked up from your church office, youth director and DCYM members, or call Faye Ross at (225) 775-2166.

Keithville UMC will have a **Homecoming Celebration** commemorating its **95th Anniversary** as an active church Nov. 1. The day-long celebration begins at 10:30. Lunch will be served at noon.

The church's pastor Rev. Brian Barrow and District Superintendent Dr. Bobby Potter will join former Keithville pastors in the occasion. All members past and present are cordially invited to attend.

## CONFERENCE Program Calendar

### October

- 22-25 Cursillo #68, Conference Center
- 24 Conference Board of Laity Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Conference Center
- 24 Conference Special Ministries Retreat
- 29 CEA Fall Meeting, Conference Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 30-31 District Communication Advisors Training, Baton Rouge
- 31-Nov. 6 Council of Bishops

### November

- 5 Conference Board of Pensions, Fall Meeting, Baton Rouge, 10 a.m.-noon
- 6-8 VIM Celebration, Tulsa, Okla.
- 8 UMW School Committee, Conference Center
- 8-11 International VIM Consultation, Oklahoma City, OK
- 10-11 Cabinet Meeting, Baton Rouge
- 12 Conference Center Board Meeting
- 12-13 SCJ Conference Council Directors, San Antonio
- 13-14 The Academy for Spiritual Leadership, Conference Center
- 13-15 Exploration '98, Los Angeles
- 13-15 National Shalom Community Summit, Houston
- 14 Uskitchto Board of Directors Meeting, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 17-18 District Missioners, Baton Rouge



# Louisiana

CONFERENCE

## edition

Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
225.346.1646  
/225.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

018000

Send PS Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

Vol 15 No 23 ■ October 30, 1998

## Mountain Quest gives singles training, fun, family

by **Bobbie Armstrong**  
*LUM Review Editor*

It was a cool evening in the Ozark Mountains, close to sunset at the edge of a perfect fall day. People leisurely ate dinner at picnic tables on the lawn under green-leaved trees about to burst into color or dined with friends in the old fashioned dining rooms at Parker Hall.

Suddenly the deep, diesel sound of a big old bus ascending the paved road to Mt. Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center broke into the twilight activities. A hushed silence floated in the air for a moment and then the words, "They're heeerr..." shattered the calm. "They're here, they're here, they're here!" a frenzy of voices proclaimed; everyone turned to the top of the drive as the big red and silver Greyhound-style bus pulled to a stop and those aboard emptied into the grounds, like a swarm of red and white t-shirted hornets, buzzing with excitement.

The "bus people" everyone called them. There was a bunch of them. They had traveled hours from Nebraska and they were there for a purpose: Mountain Quest!—the United Methodist South Central Jurisdiction Singles Ministry Training Event.

In its 12th year, this event, held annually at Mt. Sequoyah—an official SCJ retreat and training center—has a loyal



**Sue Nilson (right), Nebraska's task force member, greets the "bus people" (from the Nebraska Conference), one of whom apparently grew fangs on the trip.**



**Victoria and Harold Murry, members First UMC, Alexandria, attended the Singles Training Event at Mt. Sequoyah to get information for the singles ministry they are leading.**

Photo by Bobbie Armstrong

following from conferences all over the eight-state SCJ and every year it gets new devotees—including this writer who attended for the first time Oct. 9-11. Singles and their leaders come, often in groups, for three days of workshops offering training and personal growth, healing and prayer; worship; outstanding music; bonfires with singing, marshmallow roasting, popcorn and hot apple cider; a Saturday night dance; delicious home-cooked meals; fellowship with old friends, new connections with other singles; quiet times and nature walks. Ed Kilbourne, nationally recognized singer and storyteller, led the plenary sessions with great stories, songs and sing-alongs.

Please see Mountain Quest, page 3.

## Church professionals 'served in love' at seminar

by **Joshua Grant Lewis**  
*Contributing Writer*

It was a day for serving and learning



**Rev. Frank B. Akin, pastor, Ingleside UMC, Baton Rouge, serves communion to COP attendees.**

All photos for this story by Josh Grant Lewis

as church office professionals from around the state convened Oct. 16 at the Conference Center in Woodworth.

"Serve One Another In Love" was the theme for the day-long seminar designed to allow church office professionals to meet, to enhance their skills and to give church leaders a chance to serve those who serve the church on a daily basis.

"We wanted to bring church office professionals together to get to know one

another, learn from each other and to give to each other. And we brought in the speakers to add to that," said Liz Lucas, administrative assistant, a member of the task force that organized the event.

Three separate workshops covered various aspects of church-office life. Attendees learned about crisis management from Frank Campbell, executive director of the Baton Rouge Crisis Intervention Center. Dr. Joyce Smith Loudon gave a presentation on "Being a Church Office Professional." And Dr.

Please see Served, page 4.

## SAM Grant applications due Dec. 1

Each year the Board of Global Ministries awards Support Action Ministry (SAM) Grants to assist local churches in the establishment of new mission projects. Traditionally, priority has been give to those projects serving the needs of children and youth at risk.

Last year, three new ministries were added to the seven mission projects currently receiving SAM funding. They include tutorials, after-school programs, art and drama projects, cultural enrichment, teen parenting programs, home health and life skills education.

A SAM Grant may be awarded for up to \$2,500 annually for three consecutive years. Churches wishing to apply may call or write the SAM Committee Chair, Rev. Carol Winn, for an application. Her address is Jefferson United Methodist Church, 10328 Jefferson Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70809 or call her at (225) 293-4440.

Deadline for all new applications and re-applications is Dec. 1, 1998.

## INSIDE ...



**A STORY FROM THE MOUNTAIN**

• • • • •

**A ministry of love, page 3**

- 2 Are the saints winning?**
- 2 Special appeal launched for victims of hurricanes**
- 3 Foundation welcomes new controller**
- 4 Christmas for Habitat**
- 4 Coming soon!**





Bishop Dan Solomon

## Being and Doing

### 'Are the saints winning?'



There is ample reason for Louisianians to ask, "Which saints?" when one talks about "the saints." While the New Orleans Saints could stand some divine intervention, and while saints so certified in Christian history are to be honored, the saints of which I now speak are the biblically defined saints—"all of us who seek to be faithful to Jesus."

Matthew's Gospel refers to saints as the "faithful" (Matt. 27:52). Paul affirms that persons are saints, not by being super-Christians, but by virtue of "being in Christ." (Phil 1:1) Paul also acknowledges that being a saint is in fact "our calling" (Rom 1:7).

Hopefully, the coming of "all hallows eve" and "all Saints day" draws us into reflection, focus and conversation on "saints." Here is more than memory and gratitude. Here is identity and mission. Here is more than history and nostalgia. Here is faithfulness and character.

Someone recently commented, "Saints are in short supply." While they were *thinking more of "super-Christians,"* I have been thinking more about all of us in our daily walk with the Lord. God has called me and you to be saints; that is, to be faithful. To give our life to Christ, unite with Christ's body and seek to mature in discipleship is to "live like a saint."

Avery Dulles recently wrote, "At a time when the general culture gives little support to Christian values, it is particularly important for the Church to visualize itself, as it originally did, as a contrast society."

The phrase "contrast society" is troubling and empowering. It means that to be in step with God one will be out of step with whatever is counter to God's will. It means a renewed sense of focus as to who I am to be and what I am to do with my life. Paul described it this way, "And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have

love...I am nothing" (1 Cor. 12:31ff). The more "excellent way" will inevitably lead us to be "contrast people" and the church to be a "contrast society."

The calling to "live like a saint" is daily. Whether it is in the normal routine of our life or in some specific initiative, living like a saint will be "counter-cultural." Recently a person shared with me the humbling comments of a student with whom she was working as a volunteer in an after-school tutoring program in her church. The student said, "How did you get to be so special?" The volunteer was overwhelmed and a bit embarrassed, noting "there is surely nothing special about me." It is not so much that the volunteer was "special," but that the volunteer was a "saint."

This volunteer saint had become a "mentor" for the student, giving concrete help with homework and, just as importantly, giving concrete demonstration as a "contrast person" in a church that was a "contrast society."

After-school, as well as in-school, tutoring programs inevitably become "mentoring" programs when the volunteer tutors are "contrast people." For some children, the "tutoring time" may be one of the few times when he or she is connected significantly, helpfully and affirmatively with an adult, experiencing the joy and blessing of exclusive attention. For some children whose journey with adults has been abusive and indifferent, being tutored by a "saint" is a "contrast experience" with a "contrast person."

When you celebrate "All Saints Day," I hope you will hold squarely in your consciousness, not only "the saints of the past," but also yourself, as one of "today's saints!"

Dan E. Solomon

## A PLACE CALLED HOME offers exotic, familiar

Take a culinary trip around the world, savoring the exotic and familiar from the world's most famous ports at "A PLACE CALLED HOME," Sunday, Nov. 15 from 6-9 p.m. at the Plimsoll Club in the World Trade Center in New Orleans.

The theme, "The Ports of the World," promises such delicacies as Duck & Tasso Crepes, Schezwan Crab Salad, Coconut Shrimp and others.

Tickets are \$50 per person.

Proceeds from "A PLACE CALLED HOME" will go towards development of a playground, game room and alternative school at the Methodist Home for Children in New Orleans.

For details or tickets, call Sheldon Thompson (504) 484-7092 or Barbara Francis (504) 368-2419.



## Bishop converses with over 2,700 laity

On Monday evening, Oct. 12, Bishop Dan Solomon completed a series of nine district "Conversation With The Bishop." More than 2,700 laity from Louisiana's nine districts, as well as the pastors who came to lend their support, attended the statewide events.

Reminding laity that Jesus was a lay person whose ministry was expressed as a lay ministry, along with the twelve disciples who were all lay persons, Bishop Solomon affirmed the ministry of the *laos*, "the whole people of God." "I am convinced," he said, "that 75 percent of what I do as bishop is dependent, not upon my consecration as a bishop or my ordination as a clergy, but upon my baptism as a member of the *laos*."

"Roots, Fruits and Joys" were the focus of the bishop's comments as he spoke about Life in the Garden of United Methodism, both locally and globally. Citing Methodism's emphasis upon scriptural and doctrinal roots, as well as our lives being rooted in a personal, transforming relationship with Jesus Christ, the bishop went on to identify seven fruits of faithful congregations, concluding with the quality of "joyful compassion" that marks our life in Christ and our

mission as United Methodists.

The questions, answers and comments following the presentations covered the broad sweep of The United Methodist journey. The bishop was asked to comment on the impeachment process in Washington; the need for more clergy to fill the ranks in the wake of increased retirements; concerns relative to the Louisiana Conference Center; ministries with children in poverty; conditions in Africa's United Methodist family; the current missionary personnel situation; and other topics. One young child asked Bishop Solomon how old he was and how he got to be a bishop. The bishop's answer to the first part of the boy's question was infinitely more precise than to the latter part of the question.

At the conclusion of his last conversation evening, Bishop Solomon commented, "these evenings together have blessed me greatly. The responsiveness of our laity has been outstanding. Our people are on the front lines of human need, making a difference for Christ. How grateful I am for the faithful ministry of the Louisiana *laos*, clergy and laity alike."

## Special Appeal launched for victims of Hurricane Georges

The Council of Bishops and the General Council on Finance and Administration are asking every UM church to receive a special offering to aid recovery efforts following the late-September storm that tore across Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands before making its way through the rest of the Caribbean and to the Gulf Coast states. It is estimated that Hurricane Georges has caused \$2 billion in damages, making it the fifth most expensive natural disaster in the U.S. More than 300 people were killed.

The UM Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is coordinating relief efforts with the autonomous Methodist churches in Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, and Florida, Alabama-West Florida, and Mississippi conferences.

For more information, call UMCOR (800/554-8583); to volunteer call 800/918-3100; to donate material resources call 800/814-8765 (Appeal for Hurricanes '98, Advance No. 982515-0).



**A church-wide appeal called by The United Methodist Council of Bishops will help provide food, shelter and medicine. It will help people to rebuild and recover from Hurricane Georges and other storms of this devastating hurricane season.**





# Memorable

## MENTIONINGS

NEW YORK--Encouraging people to read the world's best seller--the Bible--is the focus of **National Bible Week** which will be celebrated Sunday, **Nov. 22 - Sunday, Nov. 29**. The Bible has had an enormous influence on our nation's art, music, literature, laws and even our sense of charity. The purpose of National Bible Week is to foster reading and study of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, and to reaffirm the founding principles of our nation. An interfaith observance, National Bible Week enjoys the cooperation of civic and fraternal groups, religious organizations, public libraries and individuals who recognize and value the influence of the Bible in American life and culture. **The Gift of Stories**, a one-hour National Bible Week TV special, produced in cooperation with the Odyssey TV Network and Phil Cooke Pictures, will kick off National Bible Week.

Call 212-408-1390 for more information or [www.nationalbible.org](http://www.nationalbible.org).

### Mountain Quest, from front page.

The driving force behind the success of this singles event is the 15-member task force which plans the event with amazing energy. The task force was formed in 1984 by Susan Monts. Susan died in 1995 from cancer, but the group--which has a member from each conference in the jurisdiction--carries on with her spirit intact. In fact, they recently dedicated a garden in her honor outside of Yancey Hall which serves as the center of operations for the training event.

Personally, Mountain Quest was an unexpected surprise. It was like going home to the old-fashioned buildings and ancient trees of the neighborhood of my early childhood--in fact, at times during the weekend, I imagined I could hear the laughter of children from distant days in the sun wafting across the Mountain's gracious lawns. It felt like a homecoming with bales of hay and pumpkins piled gracefully among the flowers and trees, like little oases around the grounds. A spirit of hospitality, tradition and unconditional acceptance and love

from the moment I arrived until I left--and that is with me still--made me feel special and made me feel like I belong. I am single, but with these people of many different ages and cultures, I have a new family.

This, I believe, is what will keep me coming back, even if it's ever not my job to be there. And this is why single ministries are so important in The United Methodist Church. Statistically, 53 percent of the unchurched are singles. Think about it. Is your church offering a family for them and their unchurched children or grandchildren?

Next year's SCJ Singles Training Event, "Sacred Eyes," will be held Oct. 8-10, so mark your calendars and start filling those buses now. Dr. Robert Keck, author of *Sacred Eyes* will be the featured speaker and Louisiana's own Celia Whitler will be the music leader. For more information about Singles Ministry, contact Rev. Larry Norman, Louisiana Conference Singles Task Force representative at (888) 239-5286.

## A STORY FROM THE MOUNTAIN

by **Bobbie Armstrong**  
**LUM Review Editor**

For the last three years of his life, Donnie, a black Doberman pinscher, has been an official attendant at the SCJ Singles Training Event at Mt. Sequoyah. In fact, he has become the event's unofficial mascot.

When Donnie comes to Mt. Sequoyah, he always brings his owner, Evelyn Springer, a member of St. Mark's UMC, Lincoln, Neb. (They are pictured left.) Donnie's ministry in this world is being Evelyn's eyes. But once you spend a few moments with them, you realize it is more than that. They share similar kind and gentle hearts; together, they are a ministry of love.

Evelyn has been blind since childhood, but she works and lives a normal life, thanks to Donnie and many friends who help her out from time to time. This year, she fell and badly injured her arm right before the training event. But she delayed surgery on her arm until after she returned.

"I have to be here," she says. "It's my family reunion." **Photo by Rich Meyer**



## Foundation welcomes new controller

The United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana is pleased to welcome Shelia C. Edwards to its staff as controller. Her office is located on the third floor of the Conference Office in Baton Rouge and she can be reached at (225) 345-1535.

Here's more about Sheila:

### Tell us a little about your professional background.

Upon graduating from Xavier University in New Orleans, I worked for Deloitte and Touche in Atlanta and New Orleans. During my tenure with Deloitte and Touche, I passed the CPA exam and obtained my CPA license. I have subsequently worked for several national and international companies as an auditor and accountant, most notably Coca Cola and Pennsylvania Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

### Share a little about your family.

My husband Antonio and I recently relocated to Louisiana with our one-year-old son Theo. After spending several years in Pennsylvania, while my husband completed his residency in Family Practice, we decided to come "home." Being a native of New Orleans and my husband being a native of St. James, many of our family members and friends were here and we wanted to be closer to them. While we enjoyed our travels, we wanted our son to benefit from the love, support and wisdom of his extended family. Technology offers us numerous and easy ways to communicate and see each other; however, none of them would have been an adequate substitute for Saturday afternoons in the park or Sunday mornings in church. I know that it was always a source of pride and strength for me to see several branches and multiple generations of my family in church on Sunday morning.

### What led you to this position with the Foundation?

I was looking for something somewhat different from what I had done in the past. Although I am a life-long Methodist, having been born and raised in First Street United Methodist Church in New Orleans, I was not aware of the Foundation before seeing a classified advertisement in the newspaper. After my first meeting with Ray Caraway, the Foundation's president, I was excited by the possibility of using the skills and talents I had acquired in the "for profit" business world to benefit an organization of the United Methodist Church. I was also excited about working for an organization with a philanthropic mission.

### What would you like to accomplish in this position?

My goal is to continue to provide the attention and care that the depositor churches and institutions have come to

expect from the Foundation. However, I believe that improvements can be made in our communication with the churches and institutions, primarily by clarifying our quarterly statements. In addition, I would like to provide depositor and non-depositor churches and institutions with regular information about the performance of our family of funds compared with other investment opportunities available to them. If churches and institutions knew how frequently we outperform CD and savings rates, major market indices and similarly invested mutual funds, they would give serious consideration to depositing their funds with us.



**Shelia C. Edwards**

The Foundation provides churches and institutions, both large and small, the opportunity to use very sophisticated financing and investing tools. However, the financial markets intimidate many churches and institutions. I think that part of my mission is to make sure that every potential depositor is aware and understands fully the many options available through the Foundation.

The Foundation offers assistance with setting up charitable gifts, providing grants to United Methodist ministries, providing loans to United Methodist churches and institutions, as well as managing funds deposited for investment. We have enjoyed tremendous growth in the last few years in these activities and are anticipating that this growth will continue. However, a great deal of record keeping is required to perform these functions well. It is my goal to ensure that our procedures and the necessary computer software are in place to support the growth and provide the most accurate and timely information to those who use our services.

### What have you discovered about the foundation that has surprised you?

My first month with the Foundation has been exciting and challenging. I am blessed to work with a group of people who are as enthusiastic as I am about the mission of the Foundation. I am blessed to have a job that provides both a way to support my family and a way to support my faith. Finally, I am blessed to have the opportunity to use my talents to assist United Methodist churches and institutions in achieving their mission to serve and glorify God.

## Ask the United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana

Have you got a question about will, gift annuities or the money management options available through the Foundation. If so, send it to the **LUM Review**, Attention: UM Foundation, 527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. We'll get the answer and publish it so everyone will learn from your question.



# AROUND THE CONFERENCE NEWS

## Church member gives 'Christmas for Habitat'

Dora Jackson, a member of Hartzell-Mt. Zion UMC, Slidell, has recently begun collecting spare change in a fundraising effort she calls "Christmas for Habitat."

Jackson and her grandchildren have started filling small banks provided by Habitat for Humanity with coins found under sofa cushions, under automobile seats or on the ground.

Jackson has also distributed banks to members of her church and others who want to give to Habitat.

Pictured below with Jackson (second from right) are (from left) grandchildren Mauriceo Hartley, Carlos Alfred, Janelle Alfred and Jeremy Abram.



## Louisiana Conference Edition of the United Methodist Review

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Dr. Rena Yocom, Director,

Gospel Communications

Bobbie Armstrong, Editor

Joshua Grant Lewis, Contributing Writer

Dr. Alonzo Campbell

Subscriptions: \$12.50 per year  
(Please make checks payable to Louisiana Annual Conference.)

Send subscriptions, news and information to:

Editor

527 North Boulevard

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

1 (888) 239-5286

(225)346-1646, (225) 383-2652 fax

**Please do not fax copy. Send original typed copy.**

(NEW) e-mail: editor@premier.net

### On the Web

You can find the Louisiana Annual Conference on the Internet at

<http://www.gbgn-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>

### DEADLINE FOR:

November 13 Issue--Nov. 2

November 27 Issue--Nov. 16



## Serve One Another In Love

District superintendents and other church leaders lined up to serve church office professionals during lunch at the Conference Center in Woodworth (left).

Dr. Alonzo Campbell serves up ice-water and a smile (below).



Carolyn Dove (left) and Kay Irby model aprons created for the occasion (photo left).

## Serve, continued from front page.

Rena Yocom, area director, Gospel Communications for the Louisiana Conference, facilitated a workshop on networking, a key purpose of the seminar.

"One of our goals was to start building a more cohesive group throughout the conference, where everybody's working together," said Kathy Moore, administrative secretary to the bishop, also a member of the task force.

To that end, organizers grouped attendees geographically by district. The Shreveport, Ruston and Monroe districts attended workshops together, as did Lake Charles, Acadiana and Alexandria; and New Orleans, North Shore and Baton Rouge.

"If you have a problem, you're going to call somebody that's nearest you," Moore said. The seminar was designed to help church office professionals rid themselves of that "blank-wall feeling" they can get when calling someone they've never met in person, she said.

But professional enhancement was not the only purpose for the seminar, the first ever of its kind in the conference.

"In addition to educating them, we

wanted to serve them, because the church office professionals are always serving everyone else," Lucas said.

And served they were. Seven district superintendents and ten other church leaders, four from the conference office in Baton Rouge, waited on participants during the lunch hour, serving bread, iced tea, entrees, dessert and whatever else they might have desired. At the conclusion, they served communion as well.

During lunch, humorist and author Fran Spain spoke to the group and kept everyone in stitches for nearly an hour. Spain, who doesn't mind telling anyone she's 84 years-old, got the ball rolling during her introduction.

"I'm really 30," she said. "I was a church secretary."

One of the biggest benefits of the seminar was being able to put faces to names, said Julie Juneau, a church office professional from Broadmoor UMC, Baton Rouge.

"It was great to hear stories that are similar to what you've experienced on a regular basis and to know that you're not the only person out there dealing with a particular situation," she said.

## In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to:

Larry Yocom, husband of Dr. Rena Yocom, area director, Gospel Communications, on the death of his stepfather, Mr. Ken Fortel, Oct. 18. His funeral was held Oct. 21 in Arizona.

Rev. Kibbie Hatfield, pastor, St. Joseph-Waterproof UMCs (Monroe Dist.), on the death of his father, Mr. J.C. Hatfield, Oct. 22.

Rev. Marcelle Crow, pastor, Holy Ridge UMC (Monroe Dist.), on the death of her father, Mr. Bill Frost, Oct. 4. His

funeral was held Oct. 7.

Rev. Tommy Freeman, pastor, St. Andrew's-Bartholomew UMCs (Monroe Dist.) on the death of his sister, Ms. Patsy O'Quinn, Oct. 8. Her funeral was held Oct. 10 in Bossier City.

Judy Morino, former editor of the LUM Review and wife of Rev. Bill McDonald, pastor, First UMC Boyce-MacArthur Drive (Alexandria Dist.), on the death of her mother, Mrs. Dorothy Flournoy, Oct. 22. Her funeral was held Oct. 24 in Tioga.

## Coming soon

Noel UMC, Shreveport, will present "A Festival of Carols" Nov. 29 at 5 p.m.

The church's Chancel, Youth and Pathfinder choral groups will perform an evening filled with new and familiar Christmas music. Audience participation will be encouraged. Call (318) 221-5207.

The Louisiana Conference Center in Woodworth presents a "Youth New Year's Retreat" Dec. 31-Jan. 2, 1999.

On New Year's Eve, from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m., the retreat will feature the musical talents of Nancy Allen Cane, The Altered and Buck.

New Year's Day activities will include flag football, a scavenger hunt, clay sculpture, journaling and a nature walk, among others.

The cost of \$70 per person includes 2 nights lodging, five meals and snacks and concert ticket.

The Baton Rouge Area Annual Mid-winter Handbell Sight-reading and Techniques Workshop will be held Jan. 23, 1999 at First UMC, Baton Rouge.

Registration is \$12 for AGEHR members and \$15 for non-members and includes lunch. The deadline to register is Dec. 27.

For more information, contact Carol Fleeger at (225) 766-8719.

## CONFERENCE Program

### November

- 1-2 UM Foundation Board Retreat, Conference Center, 4:30 p.m. Sun.-1:30 p.m. Mon.
- 5 Conference Board of Pensions, Fall Meeting, Baton Rouge, 10 a.m.-noon
- 6-8 VIM Celebration, Tulsa, Okla.
- 8-11 International VIM Consultation, Oklahoma City, OK
- 10-11 Cabinet Meeting, Baton Rouge
- 12 Conference Center Board Meeting
- 12-13 SCJ Conference Council Directors, San Antonio
- 13-14 The Academy for Spiritual Leadership, Conference Center
- 13-15 Exploration '98, Los Angeles
- 13-15 National Shalom Community Summit, Houston
- 14 Uskichitto Board of Directors Meeting, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 14 UMW School Committee, Conference Center
- 17-19 District Missioners, Baton Rouge
- 19-22 Cursillo #69, Conference Center
- 21-23 UMW Leadership Development Event, Chicago
- 22-25 VIM Youth Mission Leadership Training (10-12th grade), Conference Center



Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
225.346.1646  
/225.383.2652 fax

# Louisiana

## CONFERENCE

### edition

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

Vol 15 No 24 ■ November 13, 1998

Send P.O. Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

018000

## Council strikes down restructuring efforts

The Judicial Council has found parts of the Louisiana Conference's new structure non-compliant with Disciplinary requirement, according to a recent UM News Service press release.

The two paragraphs of the release pertaining to the Louisiana Conference read: "In the Louisiana case, the council said: 'The constitution and legislation providing for the connectional relationships throughout the denomination are more than simply a requirement for an organizational chart listing boards, and agencies, names and addresses. The connectional relationships have resulted in the creation and maintenance of colleges, universities, schools of theology, hospitals, orphanages, retirement homes, health care centers, publishing house, relief efforts, food and love for the impoverished, prison ministries, hope for the hopeless, and other causes and needs too numerous to mention.'

"At one point in its analysis, the council observed that Louisiana Annual Conference relabeled its Conference Ministry Team to include four conference boards and a commission. 'Such action fails to meet the requirements set forth in previous Judicial Council decisions and denies the conference membership the representative participation and involvement of a body of people dedicated to the purposes and causes set forth in the Discipline for these purposes,' the council said."

"It is too soon to have a definitive response," said Dr. Rena Yocom, Louisiana area director, Gospel Communications. "We have not yet received any official word from the Judicial Council. The two paragraphs in the press release do not indicate which aspects of the structure need refining."

"We know that there is new energy for mission in Louisiana. Our connectional ministries have been strengthened. Nevertheless, if the Judicial Council perceives any portion of our structure to be outside the disciplinary mandate, we will want to address it," she said.

## La. responds to Mitch's devastation



**Personnel at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in New Orleans secure and load an UMCOR food relief shipment bound for Managua, Nicaragua.**

**The Nov. 9 shipment--nearly 20 tons of beans, rice, canned meat and tuna and high-protein bars--drew the attention of several area TV stations.**

**Contributions to the church-wide appeal for special offerings for hurricane relief efforts, Hurricanes '98 (Advance No. 982515-0), will be used to aid those affected by Mitch, as well as Georges. For more information, call UMCOR at (800) 554-8583.**

Photos by Joshua Lewis



## Pastor, layperson aid UMCOR food shipment to Nicaragua

By Joshua Lewis  
Contributing Writer

After his recent efforts to help Nicaraguans in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, Ronnie Berg felt a bit like Jonah.

He didn't wind up in the belly of the whale, but he did watch as the belly of a C-130 cargo plane was loaded with nearly 20 tons of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) food aid bound for that devastated country.

A member of First UMC, Covington, who has business ties to Nicaragua, Berg helped arrange the shipment, but had scarcely known of UMCOR until his wife dragged him to their church's charge conference.

"It started at that charge conference. And, man, I didn't want to go. I wanted to stay home and watch TV. I was kind of like Jonah," he said, referring to the reluctant Old Testament prophet.

But it was at the conference that Berg heard North Shore District Superintendent Grayson Watson mention UMCOR. The next day, with the

Please see UMCOR, page 8.

## Church coordinates relief effort to help Hondurans

Members of Henning Memorial UMC, Sulphur, had been home from Honduras little more than a week before Hurricane Mitch ravaged the small Central American country.

Led by associate pastor Rev. Tracy MacKenzie, 18 members of the congregation had conducted a medical and dental mission trip under the direction of the Christian Council for Development, an association providing assistance in rural Honduran communities beset by poverty, illiteracy and a lack of basic services.

So when the hurricane hit, MacKenzie and her congregation, having formed an intimate connection with people there, felt compelled to help.

"I called Tegucigalpa, and it was mass confusion and chaos," MacKenzie said. "We wanted to

Please see Hondurans, page 8.

## ON THE INSIDE ...

- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 Lift Up Your Hearts    | 5 Alexandria District News  |
| 2 Mini-Medical Mission   | 6 Baton Rouge District News |
| 3 UM Scholarship         | 7 Musical Worship Workshop  |
| 4 Acadiana District News | 8 Coming Soon               |





Bishop Dan Solomon

## Being and Doing

### 'Lift Up Your Hearts'



A few days ago I listened to an Old Testament scholar share an illuminating insight regarding the liturgical encouragement, "lift up your hearts." She indicated that in the Hebrew understanding, while the "mind," centered in the head, is the agent of information, the heart is the agent of the spirit, vitality, hope and confidence.

Further, she noted that the heart's location in the body, as an organ of the body, is at the intersection of the torso, the shoulders and the head. To be lifted up in the heart is to have, even in a physical way, the whole body lifted up, even to become more confident and hopeful.

How often have we had the experience of a sagging heart, drooping shoulders, feeling bent and bowed by discouragement, defeat, fear and uncertainty. Sometimes our hearts sink so low we say they are broken. Sometimes our confidence and vitality so evaporate that we slump into an exhausting malaise. If somehow our hearts could be lifted up, we would feel renewed, confident, standing a little taller, both on the inside and the outside of our lives.

To lift our hearts to the Lord is to put our sagging souls into the renewing grace and care of God. Perhaps, we don't even have enough stamina left to lift our hearts up to the Lord. In those moments, I believe God says to us, "rather than lifting up your heart, just turn loose, let it fall, and I will catch it and lift your heart up for you."

The forthcoming Spiritual Renewal Retreat for Persons Under Appointment will be a significant "heart lifting" experi-

ence. Gathering at the Conference Center on January 25-27, under the leadership of Dr. Norman Shawchuck, participants will be immersed in community, bathed in grace and refreshed by the renewing power of God for faith, life, and ministry.

Mr. Thom Douglas, on the faculty of Carnegie Mellon University and leader of the Praise Team at Garden City United Methodist Church in Pittsburgh will be the music leader for this "heart lifting" retreat.

**My heart is hungry for the spiritual feast of God.**

My own anticipation of the blessing of this Spiritual Renewal Retreat is increasing rapidly. My heart is hungry for the spiritual feast of God. The nature of my vocational journey pushes against experiencing sustaining community. I am eager to share in learning and growing moments with colleagues in ministry.

Congregations across Louisiana have been contacted to support prayerfully, affirmatively and financially the participation of persons under appointment in their congregation. My gratitude is quite genuine for all the congregations and pastors who have already committed themselves to the support of this Spiritual Renewal Retreat.

Spiritual renewal is at the heart of spiritual leadership, for it "lifts up the heart." My conviction is that all of us who share in these days of prayer, scripture, reflection and community will leave the event saying "my heart has been lifted up."

Dan E. Solomon

## VIM accepting applications for '99 Mini-Medical missions to Mexico

by Joshua Lewis  
Contributing Writer

Louisiana Volunteers In Mission is currently accepting applications for the 1999 Mini-Medical mission trips to Rio Bravo, Mexico.

Medical teams will be sent monthly and should consist of at least one general practitioner, dentist, optometrist, pediatrician, nurse and pharmacist, said Rev. Larry Norman, VIM director.

Specialists who can serve as general practitioners, such as radiologists and physician's assistants, will also be accepted, he said.

Non-medical volunteers are also needed to serve as assistants, "go-fors" and Spanish translators. Each team will ideally consist of at least 10 people.

"The Mini-Medical program is designed for medical professionals and others who want to be a part of the mission experience, but can't afford to take a whole week off from work," Norman said.

Participants leave late on a Thursday, allowing them not to miss work that day. They work in the medical center all day Friday and Saturday. On Sunday, there is time for worship and shopping before returning home that evening, he said.

Volunteers fly into MacAllen, Tex. There they will be picked up by members of Operation Hands Together, the organization administering the program, and driven 15 miles south to Rio Bravo.

The program is designed to provide free, routine medical assistance to residents of the area—something not currently available. Work will take place in the OK-Leones Medical Center, built by VIM teams from Oklahoma and Louisiana.

Toward the end of 1999, VIM will have surgical suites, allowing for the participation of more medical specialists, such as heart surgeons and internal medicine professionals, Norman said.

A passport is preferred for the trip; however, a valid birth certificate with a photo ID can be used instead, he said.

"We're hoping that UM medical professionals in our local churches will



**Dr. Ken Harper, radiologist and member of Asbury UMC, Lafayette, examines a child during a recent VIM medical mission to Bolivia. The objective was much the same as that of the upcoming Mini-Medicals to Mexico: to provide much needed basic healthcare.**

Below, Dent Wood, pharmacist and member of Evangeline UMC, Baton Rouge, prepares prescriptions in the Bolivian clinic with VIM director Larry Norman. VIM will conduct another full-length medical mission to Bolivia in September, 1999.



respond to the program, but we also welcome those from other denominations and faiths," he said.

In addition, the program would welcome whole clinics who work together on a regular basis. The benefit is that "they're already a team," he said.

For more information, contact Norman at the conference office in Baton Rouge: (225) 346-1646 or (888) 239-5286.

## GBGM approves \$10 million for new program initiatives

From United Methodist News Service

Three new program initiatives, with total funding of \$10 million, were approved by the General Board of Global Ministries during its Oct. 19-22 annual meeting.

Over the next five years, the board will allocate roughly \$1 million annually from unrealized capital gains for a new venture called "The Partnership Fund." It is aimed at new mission opportunities emerging in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Asia, regions not covered by the previously approved

Millennium Fund.

Priority will be given to innovative programs with mission partners that show promise of generating ongoing support, both locally and globally. Major emphases will include leadership development, training in evangelization and community ministries, and the use of electronic media.

Last spring, board directors allocated \$2.5 million from unrealized capital gains for a program called "innovative mission volunteers." The proposal was to develop and implement a program enabling

larger numbers of church members to "experience cross-cultural, global and reciprocal mission."

At this meeting, they specifically approved plans to resource annual conferences outside the United States to develop their own volunteer infrastructure; provide leadership for volunteer projects in developing countries; expand volunteer opportunities for peer groups and professionals; strengthen the process for using individual volunteers; involve volunteers in special mission initiatives; and fund additional program support ser-

vices.

Directors also approved the proposed "Sustainable Agricultural Development Initiative" to address the causes of hunger, malnutrition and poverty "within communities where United Methodists live, work and witness."

The initiative will begin with a pilot phase that includes further program development with the people in church communities, projects and related institutions who are expected to be participants. Directors have allocated \$2.5 million for the program.



# United Methodist Scholarships and Fellowships

## Scholarship designated for new generation of Christian leaders

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) - The new "Gift of Hope: 21st Century Scholars" program unveiled by The United Methodist Church has a goal that goes beyond paying for student tuition.

The overriding thought in forming the program was to prepare a new generation of Christian leaders for the church, according to Aubrey Lucas, president emeritus of the University of Southern Mississippi and chair of the Office of Loans and Scholarships advisory team.

"We are looking at what students have done in their local churches and on their college campuses," he said. "We are not just going to be looking at grade point averages; we are looking for students who are on the road to leadership."

The four-year, \$4 million special scholarship program is intended to provide \$1,000 scholarship awards to 1,000 United Methodist students each year through the churchwide Board of Higher Education and Ministry's Office of Loans and Scholarships. The board approved the initiative at its annual meeting, Oct. 6-10.

The new scholarship program will help United Methodist students attending any regionally accredited academic institution in the United States. Most of the other scholarships offered by the board are earmarked for United Methodist students attending United Methodist-related schools.

"These scholarships are for 'ordinary' students, not just those going into ordained ministry, but those who are going to provide leadership for the church as lay members," said the Rev. Karen Engle Layman, senior pastor of Allison United Methodist Church in Carlisle, Pa., and vice chair of the Office of Loans and Scholarships advisory committee.

The advisory committee recognized that many United Methodist students are attending public universities and other private institutions.

"We want to stay in touch with our members who are on non-United Methodist-related campuses (and) who are active in their Wesley Foundations," said Aubrey Lucas, chair of the Office of

Loans and Scholarships advisory team.

In addition to the new scholarship program, the Office of Loans and Scholarships will also increase the annual maximum loan amount to \$2,500, and the repayment period will be expanded to 10 years.

Applications for the new scholarships will be available beginning in January. A committee composed of elected members from the board will review the applications and select recipients at the end of June.

A student applying for "The Gift of Hope: 21st Century Scholars" program must:

- \* be a full, active member of The United Methodist Church for at least three years prior to applying;
- \* demonstrate leadership in The United Methodist Church;
- \* show how his or her education will provide leadership for the church and society and improve the quality of life of others;

\* be a citizen, a permanent U.S. resident, or a member of the central conferences; and

\* be in a full-time degree program at a regionally accredited educational institution in the United States. Applicants pursuing a M.Div. degree must be attending a seminary approved by

The United Methodist Church's University Senate. Preference will be given to students attending United Methodist-related seminaries and theological schools.

Applicants may be undergraduate or graduate students. Cumulative grade point average of 3.0 for undergraduate students and 3.5 for graduate students on a 4.0 scale are expected.

Financial need will be considered when awarding the scholarships. The deadline for applying is June 1.

For more information, visit the office's Internet site at <http://www.gbhem.org/loans.html>; write to the Office of Loans and Scholarships, P.O. Box 871, Nashville, TN 37202; call (615) 340-7344 (scholarships) or (615) 340-7346 (loans); or send a fax to (615) 340-7367.



## UMCom seeks applicants for second minority fellowship

United Methodist Communications is soliciting colleges, universities and seminaries for applicants for the agency's second Racial Ethnic Minority (REM) Fellowship.

The full-time, salaried, one-year fellowship will be given to a recent United Methodist college or seminary graduate for a 12-month period beginning July 1. Deadline for applications is March 29.

The fellowship was implemented in 1998 to correct the under-representation of ethnic minorities serving as communicators in the church's 66 U.S. annual (regional) conferences.

Applicants should have an educational background in communications and an interest in exploring annual conference communications as a possible career goal.

The fellowship will provide a salary of \$30,000 plus benefits, moving expenses and travel. The recipient will be placed in one of the church's annual conferences to work alongside an experienced communicator in a variety of media. A stipend is being provided for the annual conference communicator serving as a mentor to the fellowship recipient. The mentor will serve on the search committee and will help develop a learning contract.

## UMCom offers communications scholarship and fellowship

### The Leonard M. Perryman Communications Scholarship for Ethnic Minority Students

Two \$2,500 Leonard M. Perryman Communications Scholarships for Ethnic Minority Students are offered annually in recognition of Mr. Perryman, a journalist for The United Methodist Church for nearly 30 years.

The scholarships aid United States ethnic-minority undergraduate students who intend to pursue careers in religious communication and are enrolled in either their junior or senior years in accredited institutions of higher education in the United States.

Application forms for the 1999-2000 academic year may be obtained by writing to:

Scholarship Committee  
United Methodist Communications  
Public Media Division  
P.O. Box 320  
Nashville, TN 37202-0320.

**umcom**  
United Methodist  
Communications



*Larry R. Hygh Jr., an African-American graduate student from Marshall, Texas, is the first recipient of the REM Fellowship. Working with the New England Annual Conference since July, he has been receiving training in a variety of religious media, from print to broadcast to computer technology.*

The Foundation for United Methodist Communications is providing financial support for the new fellowship.

Application forms may be completed online at <http://crt.umc.org/info/rem> or obtained by writing to REM Fellowship Committee, United Methodist Communications, Conference Resourcing Team, P.O. Box 320, Nashville, TN 37202-0320. For more details, send an e-mail to [crt@umcom.umc.org](mailto:crt@umcom.umc.org) or [REM@umcom.umc.org](mailto:REM@umcom.umc.org), or call (888) 278-4862.--UMNS

### The Stooddy-West Fellowship for graduate study in religious journalism

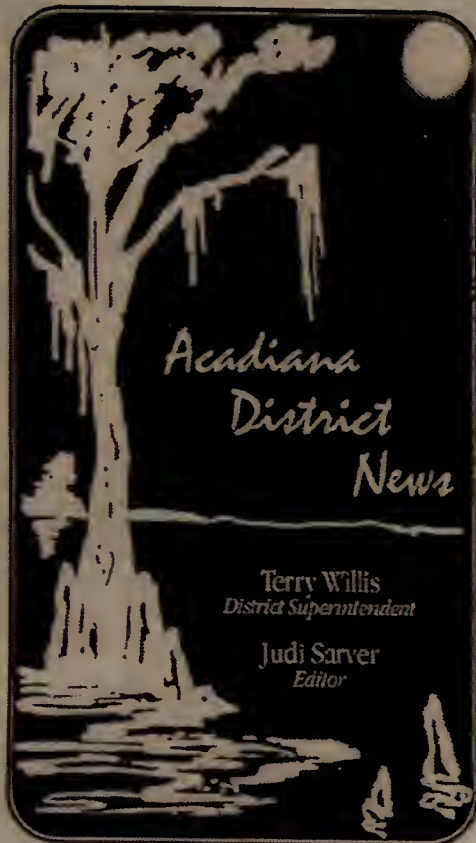
Two \$6,000 Stooddy-West Fellowships in religious journalism are offered in recognition of the professional competence and inspired service of Dr. Ralph Stooddy and Dr. Arthur West, leaders in public relations and information services in The United Methodist Church, 1940-75.

The grants will assist two Christians engaged in religious journalism, or planning to enter this field, in taking graduate study at a U. S. accredited and approved school or department.

Application forms for the 1999-2000 academic year may be obtained by writing to:

Fellowship Committee  
United Methodist Communications  
Public Media Division  
P.O. Box 320  
Nashville, TN 37202-0320.





850 Kaliste Saloom Road  
Suite 217  
Lafayette, LA 70508  
(318) 235-0080

## Asbury's New Friends offers fellowship of strength

One of the newer ministries at Asbury UMC, Lafayette, is the New Friends Sunday School Class. This specially formatted class is for adults with developmental disabilities.

Sunday, Aug. 16 was designated as Disabilities Awareness Sunday at Asbury. Members of the New Friends Class served in leadership roles at each of the three morning worship services.

They read and signed the Scriptures, presented the morning anthem and led the congregation in singing the hymns.

An added feature was the presence of Pam Boswell, who used sign language to interpret the entire service.

At the conclusion of the middle service (which the class regularly attends), the group came forward. Four were baptized, fifteen were confirmed and six joined the church.

If your church would like information on beginning a similar ministry please contact Asbury UMC, Lafayette.

## Got news?

Please send stories and pictures about your church to:

Judi Sarver  
305 Chastant Boulevard  
Lafayette, LA 70508 or  
E-mail: bd21226@aol.com

## Laura Brown Named Acadiana District Missioner

As of Oct. 1, Laura F. Brown has been named Acadiana District missioner. She takes over the responsibilities from Linda Boswell, who has been serving as the interim missioner until a full-time person could be found.

Brown is a native of Jeanerette and a graduate of New Iberia Senior High School. Following high school she attended Southern University at Baton Rouge earning a B.S. in Marketing and Economics. In 1997 she received a Certificate of Theology from the Interdenominational Theological Center at Atlanta, Georgia. She is the wife of the late Rev. Andrew Brown who was pastor of St. Paul UMC, Jeanerette.

Laura is the mother of six children. Five of them—Ayanna, LaShanna, Andrew and twins Aaren and Lauren—are in college and the sixth—Lady—is a junior in high school. Laura is a member of St. Paul UMC, Jeanerette.

Brown's message to the district follows:

To God be the glory!

I thank God for the opportunity to serve as Missioner in the Acadiana District of our conference.

My enthusiasm and eagerness to be of service to our churches ranks second only to the great things that are happening in God's churches in our district and to the commendable servants on our District Ministry Team.



Laura Brown

Thus far my new experiences in service to Christ as district missioner can be compared to no other experience I have had. I now know where Blanks and Lottie, La. are and recently I traveled to Dulac (our church nearest to the Caribbean) where I met the kind folks at Clanton Chapel UMC, our only Native American congregation in the district.

October 2-3, our District Ministry Team's first two-day Planning Retreat at Sager-Brown included mission work as well. Our DMT repackaged emergency items at the UMCOR Depot to be shipped both near and far, wherever the need.

The team's retreat afforded us the opportunity to enjoy fellowship and focus on tasks for the remainder of 1998 to the year 2000.

During my first three weeks of service, I've been blessed to meet persons from both small and large congregations in our district, who are about our Father's business; congregations with vision and leadership determined to make a difference in their communities; congregations utilizing their gifts and strengths in Sunday School, children and youth programs; congregations active in fundraising events, offering DISCIPLE Bible Study, and after school tutorial programs; congregations with great usher boards and active UMW; congregations with dynamic lay leadership, volunteers on mission trips, skilled musicians; congregations with community outreach programs that are needed such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, Weight Watchers, food pantries and even grant writers. Whether a large or small church, Acadiana District is blessed with supportive, loving, and dedicated congregations, some with greater needs than others, striving to "keep the doors open" and others that are willing to assist and service the needs of smaller congregations in our district as we, brothers and sisters in Christ, press forward in our mission to make disciples for Christ.

*His bondservant, Laura Brown*

## District fills 400 flood buckets for Mission In Motion

The Acadiana District responded wholeheartedly to the request for flood buckets. Approximately 400 filled buckets were delivered to the depot at Sager-Brown for distribution to areas suffering from the effects of flooding.

The Mission In Motion truck made it's way across the District during the month of October collecting supplies

and buckets from churches and community sources.

Thanks to the hard work of coordinator Sarah Schoeffler and her task force, the drive was a huge success.

Thanks also go out to each and every person—young and old—who contributed either in goods or service to this worthy cause.







## First UMC, Pineville celebrates 125th anniversary

The 1998 session of the Louisiana Conference listened attentively as Bishop Dan Solomon presented the "special appeal" by the Bishops of the United Methodist Church for the children of Africa. Our bishops have covenanted together to raise twelve million dollars to provide relief in some of the most desperate situations of human misery that exist.

Bishop Solomon has personally accepted the challenge to raise two hundred thousand dollars among the United Methodists in Louisiana for this most worthwhile cause of Christ. The conference voted to bring this offering to a Miracle Night service on the first evening of the 1999 Annual Conference session. Even now there is a growing sense of joy and mission as we anticipate this service.

On Wednesday evening, Oct. 28, Bishop Solomon received an unexpected but delightful surprise. Members and friends of the Pineville congregation filled the Granberry Conference Center on the Louisiana College campus to capacity. Kermit Cummings extended a warm welcome as the One Hundred Twenty-fifth Anniversary Banquet began. Dr. William 'Bill' Simpson, Louisiana College distinguished professor of history and member of the First UMC congre-



From left, Ronnie and Cathy Powell, Joy and Bishop Dan Solomon and Betty and Kermit Cummings visit during the anniversary banquet.

gation, shared the history of this most unusual congregation which has purchased a new fifty-three acre campus and is currently building a new \$3 million facility to house its ministry. When the congregation celebrates its first worship service in the new facility on Easter Sunday morning, April 4, 1999, the congregation will be in its fifth location.

As the keynote speaker of the evening, Bishop Solomon challenged, motivated and inspired as he spoke of "Planting Again!" He observed, "Any congregation preparing for its fifth move in 125 years is obviously more interested in people than in property!" The con-

gregation responded with ringing applause.

Pastor J. Roddy Taylor was invited to share the vision of this energetic congregation. He began by addressing Bishop Solomon. "This may not be your largest congregation but, without doubt, this is your best congregation!" As he continued, he spoke of one of the truly unique characteristics of the Pineville congregation:

"The ability to nurture and encourage leaders!" Pastor Taylor invited Cathy Powell, senior vice president of CLECO and chairperson of the First UMC committee on finance to step to the podium. Cathy invited Bishop Solomon to join her at the podium where she said, "This congregation desires to stand by your side and encourage you in the task of leadership!" Then she placed a check for \$5,000 into the bishop's hand for the Miracle Night Offering. Spontaneously, the congregation stood to its feet singing the Doxology, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!" We all knew we stood on holy ground! Thanks be to God!

## Alexandria District News



2013 MacArthur Drive  
Bldg. 2, Suite 2  
Alexandria, LA 71301  
(318) 443-3213

**Dist. Superintendent**  
Rev. Don Avery

**Dist. Communication Advisor**  
Stan Pearson

## Odyssey Channel slated for removal

### URGENT ACTION REQUIRED!

Effective Dec. 1, the TCA Cable Company will replace the Odyssey Channel with INSP. Odyssey is the only religious network endorsed by United Methodists and nearly 70 other groups. Many of the programs seen on Odyssey are produced by United Methodist Communications in Nashville. Losing Odyssey will mean the loss of many popular national religious programs as well as popular local programming.

Changing this decision is not impossible. Please begin calling and writing to the cable manager, circulating a petition in your congregation, writing letters to the editor of the Town Talk. Urge your friends and fellow church members to do the same.

The TCA Cable manager is: Diana Deville, TCA Cable, 3250 Donahue Ferry Rd., Pineville, LA 71360-4521, (318) 640-2892.

## Bishop appoints new senior minister

Bishop Dan Solomon has appointed Rev. Roy T. James as the new senior minister at First UMC, Alexandria. Roy, his wife, Merry, and 9-year-old daughter, Rebekah, come to us from the 1,400 member Atascocita UMC in Atascocita, Texas (the Humble area northeast of Houston).

James earned a Master's of Theology degree at the Perkins School of Theology in 1982 and is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry program at Drew (New Jersey) Theological School.

The First UMC church family offers Rev. James and his family a hearty Louisiana welcome.



## Church promotes "relaxed" service



First UMC, Natchitoches has placed eight billboards around the town to promote its informal "Blue Jean Service." Designed to minister to baby boomers on down, the service features contemporary music, video, a band, refreshments and, of course, casual dress.

A businessman in the church who uses the billboards year-round provided use of four of them. Four more were donated by the company's owner, because he believed in the ministry, said Susie Storey, chair of the communications committee.

"Maybe someone in your congregations can give you billboard space for your church. It never hurts to look around and ask," Storey said.

If you have any questions, contact Storey at (318) 357-8296.

## Welcome new district communication advisor

Stan Pearson has been appointed Communications Advisor for the Alexandria District.

He is a graduate of Louisiana College in Pineville. He has taught special education and social studies in Grant & Rapides Parishes for the last seven years. He is a member of First UMC in Alexandria where he is a youth Bible study teacher and also sings in the choir.

Welcome, Stan!

Send your news and photos to him at:  
224-B Mary Hill Road  
Pineville, LA 71360  
Phone: (318) 641-1503







## Baton Rouge District News



5713 Superior Drive  
Suite A-1  
Baton Rouge, LA 70816  
(225) 296-0668

**Dr. Leslie Norris**  
District Superintendent

**Hallique L. Dawson**  
District Communication Advisor

## Mission Center kicks off sock drive

by Joshua Lewis  
Contributing Writer

The UM Mission Center has begun collecting socks for area children in a drive called "Sock It to Mission."

Many houses in North Baton Rouge, where the center is located, are built off the ground and floors can become cold during the winter months, said Genny Mandujano, executive director of the center.

"The average North Baton Rouge family consists of 4-8 children, and there is always a sock shortage," Mandujano said.

Many of the children the center sees have colds during the winter months, she said.

In the children's clothes closet administered by the center, socks are always the first items to go, she said.

So the center is asking churches to participate in the drive by creating a collection box with the words "Sock It to Mission" and by advertising the effort with articles in church bulletins and newsletters.

"It's something that's lightweight and easy to collect," Mandujano said.

Socks can be new or used. Used socks are to be without holes, in good repair and tied together. No odd socks can be accepted. Sizes can run from infant to young adult.

For more information, contact Mandujano at (225) 355-0702.

## Youth choir director retires after 37 years

By Joshua Lewis  
Contributing Writer

At the outset of the worship service honoring Esther Socolofsky's 37 years of service as University UMC's Youth Choir director, there wasn't a choir member in sight.

Then out marched a man who more than 20 years ago had played her first John the Baptist in "Godspell."

Karl Klaus raised a ram's horn to his lips and blew. He sang the first two stanzas of 'Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord,' from the same musical.

Then the procession began: the 50 or so members of her current youth choir streamed out, with more than 70 members of past choirs, all joining in song.

They had traveled from across Louisiana and Texas—one from as far as New Jersey—to honor the woman they know affectionately as 'Mrs. Soc.'

Socolofsky, seated at the front of the church, could see everyone as they moved past her to the chancel area. Seeing them all there was "awesome," she said.

"With each one of those individuals, there is a story, a connection," she said.

The composite choir—just a fraction of the more than 600 members of University UMC she has shepherded through her program—sang anthems and selections from past musicals such as 'Cotton Patch Gospel' and 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.' Several members spoke about what 'Mrs. Soc' had meant to them. Socolofsky even conducted a couple of pieces herself.

In all, the worship service ran more than two hours, but no one seemed to notice, said Cindy Hall, University UMC's director of Children's Ministries and Wesley Choir director (grades 3-6) and organizer of the musical presentation during the service.

When members of the congregation told her how much they enjoyed it, Hall, who was a member of Socolofsky's first youth choir, knew immediately how to respond.

"I had the best teacher," she said.

Socolofsky has held her post since 1961, longer than any pastor the church has seen during that time.

"She has shaped this church in so many ways," said Pastor Ken Irby, who joked that Socolofsky had beaten him by 34 years.



"Mrs. Soc." conducts a choir composed of members past and present at the service honoring her 37 years of service as University UMC's youth choir director.

He credits the choir with the strong youth program the church has enjoyed.

The youth choir encompasses grades 7-12 and has ranged in size from 8-10 to more than 120, Socolofsky said.

She traveled with her choir extensively, performing musicals in 20 states. This summer, her last tour with the choir, saw performances of "Fiddler on the Roof" in Louisiana, Texas and Arizona.

Additionally, the choir has always provided music for University UMC's 8:30 a.m. Sunday service.

"While the shows are the glitzy thing that everybody gets excited about, the thing that she's always stressed is that, week-in-week-out, we have a job to do, choir, and that's to lead people in the worship of God," Irby said.

An average of 40-60 teenagers show up each Sunday, Socolofsky said.

"This is pretty phenomenal. And this is even after proms, after being out all night."

Some have even shown up in their tuxedos, she said.

"They have such a feeling of responsibility and dedication. It means so much to them."

Socolofsky has always insisted on high standards for her teens, both onstage and off.

"It's like I've always told them, 'No one can achieve excellence without hard work,'" she said.

"I expect the best. And I think too many people have low expectations of teenagers. They don't realize how hard they'll work. They sell them short."

Socolofsky credits a God-given gift with the success she has had working with youth.

"God just gave me this way with teenagers. It's just my thing. I relate to them—even at my age—I still just absolutely love being with them."

"One of my big things is nurturing these young ones and bringing them along to succeed in these things and to believe in themselves. It's so important to me because I feel like the biggest thing that teenagers lack so much of the time is a belief in themselves—and a realization of really what they're worth as an individual."

"I firmly believe that each and every one has his or her own special gifts, and I've always loved helping them find them. And these kids wind up doing things they never dreamed they could do," she said.

## Broadmoor begins busy fall with focus on mission

Broadmoor UMC, Baton Rouge, began construction on a four-bedroom Habitat for Humanity house in September. This is the second year the church has provided the volunteer labor and financial support to build a Habitat house.

Broadmoor's "Mission Market" in September helped kick off the Habitat project, along with highlighting other mission opportunities with Volunteers in Mission and Partners in Education, among others.



Habitat House



Mission Market



## A WORD TO WITNESS

### Shhhh! Did God say something?

by Rev. Willie E. Jackson, Jr.  
Faith UMC, Shreveport

When was the last time you had a conversation with God? No, I don't mean the last time you did all the talking and God just listened—you know, like we usually do. We go to God with all these requests and proposals, but never wait for His answer. For some reason we act as though we know what is best for us.

A recent Church School lesson talked about the people of God not listening, but insisting on doing what they wanted. Have you ever thought about what confession is? It is bringing our thoughts and intentions alongside God's thoughts and intentions so that we can get it right. But instead of waiting for God's response, we usually hear only our own desires.

In the lesson the children of Israel wanted Samuel to appoint them a king. They had become involved in the material things of their new land--The Promised Land. Because of their disobedience, they were having difficulty believing God was still with them. Often, we walk in ways that cause us to feel far from God. And the consequences of our actions usher in fear. Fear makes us think we need to do something other than what God has promised.

So the Children of Israel asked for a king. Samuel told God about this request

and God assured Samuel that it was He (God) they were rejecting not him (Samuel). God told Samuel to tell them what they were really asking for. Samuel did this, but the people didn't listen. They wanted what they wanted. They were looking at the world and wanted to be like everyone else. "We want a king like other nations have," they insisted. God said to Samuel, "Give them their king."

When was the last time you really listened to God? When you prayed last night, did you wait for God's response? We look out there somewhere and think that's what we need, but it's not. If we don't wait for God's response, we can't know the way. We get afraid and lose sight of God and start asking for stuff beyond what God has promised. We began to invite into our lives negative consequences.

God said to Samuel, "Give them their king." Give them what they don't need. God loves us so much that He sometimes give us things that we don't need so that we will listen. For when we find ourselves not where we thought we would be, we cry out to God. God is always with us even when we can't see Him. The next time you talk to Him, wait. He has something to tell you.

God speaks! Are you listening?

### Thanksgiving Day programming on Odyssey Channel

The following are a few of the special programs that will appear on the Odyssey Channel Thanksgiving Day:

**The Gift of Stories:** In celebration of National Bible Week, a week where people of many faiths all around America celebrate the Scriptures and their wonderful stories, this program highlights the impact grandparents can have on the lives of their grandchildren by reading the Bible to them. Noon: 1:00 p.m. (ET).

**Cotton Patch Gospel:** A hoedown of Christian music that retells the Gospels of

Matthew and John. The music is by Harry Chapin and the exuberance is infectious. 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. (ET).

**Mormon Tabernacle Choir:** A half-hour of spiritual music from the heavenly voices of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. 3:00 - 3:30 p.m. (ET).

**Molly's Pilgrim:** A young Russian Jewish girl, teased by classmates for her ethnic mannerisms, finds acceptance when her mother creates a doll based on a traditional Thanksgiving character. 3:30 4:00 p.m. (ET).

## Music worship workshop explores ways of reaching out to youth

by Dian Kent  
Communication Advisor,  
New Orleans District

Two hundred twenty-five clergy and lay members from the New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Northshore Districts met at Cornerstone UMC, New Orleans, Oct. 30 to explore ways of reaching out to the un-churched younger generation through music.

The music worship workshop featured Rev. Cynthia Wilson-Felder, associate pastor of Music and Worship at Ben Hill UMC in Atlanta, Ga.

A native of New Orleans, Wilson-Felder was recently named music director for the 2000 General Conference.

Wilson-Felder is well-known for her versatility and incredible ability to engage any audience with her warmth and charisma as a lecturer, preacher, teacher, conductor and concert artist.

The concept of hosting a music worship workshop came as a result of the District Ministry Team's (DMT) visits to New Orleans area churches. Many ministers expressed an interest in finding ways to maintain the traditional service structure, hold the younger church members and also attract the younger un-churched generation.

"The workshop was a big success in that it only raised awareness that there is not one 'right' way to worship God," said Barbara Murray, New Orleans District missionary.

Because many churches are not large enough to hold a traditional service and a contemporary service each week, ways must be found to incorporate both into one service. Wilson-Felder stressed that there is no one way to worship God. She discussed how David, Jeremiah and Paul worshipped God, pointing out the differences in worship style. She further pointed out that different cultures worship in different styles, saying that church worship is not a 'one-size-fits-all' proposition—which our churches are recognizing.

A change can be as simple as using the lyrics of a difficult or not-so-popular hymn with the tune of a popular or well-known hymn, she said. Instrumental music accompaniment or liturgical dance



Wilson-Felder

can be another way to help the worship service to be more creative.

"Cynthia did a wonderful job. The information was up to date and to the point for contemporary worship. It

met my needs," said Rev. Bill Rowell, pastor at First UMC, Kenner.

The UM Church has a charge to bring the younger generation into the church and hold them, Wilson-Felder said.

"We must help our young people see that worshipping God can be exciting," she said.

Rev. Regina Hickman, associate pastor of Gretna UMC, said she was pleased with how the Bible was used by Wilson-Felder in her presentation.

Rev. Roger Lathan, pastor, Camphor Memorial UMC in Baton Rouge, said: "We had five attend from our church. It was a grand success as pastors, musicians and worship leaders were informed, inspired and challenged to make worship alive and relevant for the gathered community. It was great, and we were elated and glad we came!"

In his greeting, Rev. Freddie C. Henderson, New Orleans district superintendent, expressed the commitment of the district and the DMT to "Go, make disciples" of Jesus Christ.

Wilson-Felder has recorded with Lionel Hampton, Melba Moore and Shirley Caesar, among others. She recently performed at a benefit for Africa University at Carnegie Hall in New York.

## Task force to recommend new apportionment formula, fewer offerings

From United Methodist News Service

You may see a new apportionment formula, fewer special offerings, and the elimination of "prior claims" for financing churchwide ministry if recommendations of a task force are adopted.

Last May, the Connectional Ministry Funding Patterns Task Force agreed to propose the elimination of membership from the formula used in the apportionment system.

In its Oct. 17-19 meeting in Atlanta, the task force chose the formula it will present to the December meeting of the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA).

The proposal is based on the economic health of the congregations in a conference. Income to the denomination from each conference would rise and fall with the prosperity of that area. A percentage of local-church income would be determined by General Conference for the following quadrennium. The percentage would be the same for each of the four years.

Adjustments would be made in computing each conference's apportionment. These adjustments would cause slight variations in the percentage applied to the individual conferences.

Task force members decided to rec-

ommend making the practice of connecting conference benevolences with the churchwide World Service Fund optional to the conference. Currently, this practice is required.

After considering the six special Sunday offerings authorized by General Conference, the task force decided to recommend continuation of the two best-known: One Great Hour of Sharing and World Communion Sunday. Task force members discussed the use of some offerings to raise awareness, but they felt this could be better handled in other ways.

They will recommend to GCFA that

the other four special Sundays—Human Relations Day, Native American Awareness Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday, and UM Student Day—be cared for in regular budgeting. A separate task force will also make a recommendation about special Sundays.

The task force also agreed to recommend moving away from the concept of prior claims—funds that cover essential churchwide promotional and administrative costs and are paid at 100 percent. However, it would still provide for the needs covered by prior claims through other funding mechanisms, including reserves to meet emergencies.



AROUND

THE CONFERENCE

NEWS



Mt. Zion celebrates laity Sunday with Crump

Mount Zion UMC, New Orleans, celebrated Laity Sunday, Oct. 18, and like UMs across the connection, were challenged to make the work of the laity the empowering force inherent in the Great Commission.

Dr. Anita Crump, conference lay leader, (pictured below with Mount Zion's new pastor, Rev. Victor T. McCullough) was the guest speaker for the morning service. Her message on "Partners in Ministry: Making Disciples of Jesus Christ," was inspiring.

She and Rev. McCullough called for spiritual rebirth as a prelude to committed healing ministry to the world.



Louisiana Conference Edition of the United Methodist Review

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Dr. Rena Yocom, Director, Gospel Communications

Bobbie Armstrong, Editor

Joshua Lewis, Contributing Writer

Dr. Alonzo Campbell

Subscriptions: \$12.50 per year

(Please make checks payable to Louisiana Annual Conference.)

Send subscriptions, news and information to:

Editor

527 North Boulevard

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

1 (888) 239-5286

(225)346-1646, (225) 383-2652 fax

Please do not fax copy. Send original typed copy.

(NEW) e-mail: editor@premier.net

On the Web

You can find the Louisiana Annual Conference on the Internet at

http://www.gbgm-umc.org/louisiana-conference/

DEADLINE FOR:

November 27 Issue--Nov. 16

December 11 Issue--Nov. 30

La. UMs minister to Central Americans in need

United Methodist Mission Center Director Genny Mandujano displays extra t-shirts that the center sent to Honduras via the National Guard. The shirts were left over from a UM youth conference. Mandujano also sent 10 cases of surplus soup, tomato paste and tomato sauce from the center's food pantry.

Photo by Joshua Lewis



Hondurans, continued from front page.

know what we could do as a church."

The CCD's food stores had become depleted almost immediately, she said.

"People are just desperately trying to get some food into the country because there's just nothing there," she said.

So, MacKenzie rallied her church and the Wesley Foundation at McNeese State University, where she is director, to provide emergency relief for the country: canned goods and other non-perishable foods, household items, over-the-counter medications and water, among other items.

By the Nov. 8 deadline, the group had collected enough supplies to fill a 48-foot tractor trailer, which then transported them to the port of Galveston where they joined a United Methodist Committee on Relief shipment headed

for the country.

The response from Lake Charles and surrounding communities was overwhelming, said Buddy Frenzel, director of the church's mission outreach team, who helped orchestrate the collection drive.

And not just United Methodists responded. Donations came from throughout the community and from many non-denominational churches.

The collection drive involved more than 60 people from the church and the Wesley Foundation, as well as the Sulphur Fire Department and the National Guard, who helped load the truck, MacKenzie said.

"We figure God did it," she said of the efforts coordinated in less than a week. "We were just the vessels."

UMCOR, continued from front page.

help of his pastor, Rev. Gray Finnell, Berg was on the phone with Bob Osgood, director of UMCOR's Sager-Brown depot. Osgood put Berg in touch with UMCOR officials who could authorize food shipments.

"We made a deal: They would ship 40,000 lbs. of food if we could get the Nicaraguan government to guarantee it would go to the most needy people and not into storage or onto the black market," Berg said. The shipment--consisting of 6 tons of rice, 3 tons of beans, 9 tons of canned meats and high-protein bars, among other items--had a considerable market value, around \$30,000, he estimated.

The next day, Berg, working with the Nicaraguan consul general in New Orleans, Mayra Grimaldi, had a letter from the country's vice-president making the needed guarantee. On the strength of that letter, UMCOR Assistant General Secretary of Emergency Services Lloyd Rollins ordered the food shipped, Berg said.

Meanwhile, there was no airplane to get it there. That's where Rev. Dwight Ramsey, pastor of First UMC, New Orleans, entered the equation. Ramsey also knew Grimaldi and had contacted her to see how he and his congregation could help. About that time, the UMCOR food shipment had been approved. Grimaldi told him they needed a plane.

Coming soon •

The 37th Annual Memorial UMC Bazaar will be held Nov. 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Monroe.

The tradition continues with Memorial's famous shrimp gumbo, sandwiches, homemade desserts, jellies and jams, sourdough rolls and relishes.

Many items will also be for sale, such as arts and crafts, books, plants and Christmas decorations. A new feature this year will be a silent auction for a beautiful, hand-crafted red oak log truck.

For more information or to place your gumbo order, call (318) 343-3033.

The United Methodist Women of First UMC, Welsh, will hold their Fourth Annual Arts and Crafts Fair, Dec. 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Admission is free and a variety of crafts will be on display, such as pottery, paintings, angels, wreaths, homemade suckers and more.

For more information, call Ava Pugh at (318) 734-3775 or Ora Belle Compton at (318) 734-2743.

First UMC, Baton Rouge, will hold a Youth Sunday School Workshop led by Walt Marcum Dec. 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Marcum is minister to youth and their families, Highland Park UMC, Dallas, Tex. He has nearly 30 years experience in youth ministry and works with about 300 youth weekly. His presentation will address questions such as, Is youth Sunday School important in the lives of youth today? Registration is open to all by calling the Education Office at (225) 383-4777.

Evangeline UMC, Baton Rouge, is planning to serve Thanksgiving Dinner to the community Nov. 21 at the church. If you would like to contribute food, time and service, contact Richard Rando at (225) 356-4459.

CONFERENCE

Program Calendar

November

- 17-19

District Missioners, Baton Rouge
- 19-22

Cursillo #69, Conference Center
- 21-23

UMW Leadership Development Event, Chicago
- 22-25

VIM Youth Mission Leadership Training (10-12th grade), Conference Center

December

- 5

Conference Center Board Meeting
- 4-6

JR. High Retreat (7th & 8th Grades), Conference Center
- 8-10

Cabinet Retreat





# Louisiana

CONFERENCE

## edition

Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
225.346.1646  
/225.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

018000

Send PS Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

Vol. 15 No. 25 ■ November 27, 1998

## Handy named to UMAC Hall of Fame

Bishop W.T. Handy, Jr., a Louisiana native and former Louisiana Conference district superintendent and 25-year member of the Conference Board of Ministry, was inducted posthumously into the United Methodist Association of Communicators Hall of Fame during its Nov. 6 annual awards banquet held in Orlando, Fla. He received the honor for his work as a publishing representative and vice president for personnel services at the United Methodist Publishing House from 1968-76 and as a pastor and bishop.



**Bishop W.T. Handy, Jr.**

Handy was born in New Orleans March 26, 1924, the eldest child of the late Rev. and Mrs. William Talbot Handy, Sr. He died suddenly April 12, 1998, after attending

Easter services at Clark Memorial UMC in Nashville.

Throughout his ministry, Bishop Handy represented the best in Christian communications as a pastor, Publishing House employee, district superintendent, and bishop.

He attended Tuskegee University; earned his undergraduate degree from Dillard University; his Master of Divinity Degree from Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta; and his Master of Sacred Theology Degree from Boston University School of Theology. He was the recipient of several honorary doctoral degrees.

W. T. Handy was ordained a deacon in 1950 and an elder in 1951 and became a clergy member of the Louisiana Conference of the Central Jurisdiction where he served 25 years as a member of the Conference Board of Ministry. He was a pastor in Alexandria and Baton

Please see Handy, page 8.

## La. Fellowship of associate members, local pastors holds first event



by Rev. Wanda Cosentino  
North Shore District Communication Advisor  
WOODWORTH, La.--The first official event of the newly formed Louisiana Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors (LFAM&LP) (pictured left) took place Oct. 9-10 at the Conference Center in Woodworth.

Rev. Ed Boyd and New Orleans District Superintendent Rev. Freddie Henderson provided great teaching. There was also time for worship, fun and fellowship.

Any Associate Member or Local Pastor interested in membership in the Louisiana Fellowship, please call or write Charlie Cosentino at (225) 222-3302 or P.O. Box 563, Greensburg, LA 70441.

## Douglas to direct music for Jan. Spiritual Renewal Retreat

by Rev. John Winn  
Director, The Center for Spiritual Effectiveness

With a dynamic spiritual event coming up, we went on a search for a dynamic, spiritual leader to direct us musically. We found a music director who is the leader of the Praise Team at a significant United Methodist Church and who has been a soloist with an opera company, a symphony, and the River City Brass Band.

Those are only part of the credentials of Thom Douglas of Duquesne, Pa., who will be our music leader for the Spiritual Renewal Retreat for all persons under appointment to be held at the Conference Center, Jan. 25-27, 1999. Music will play a vital role in setting-up each segment of the retreat as well as the night of the Festival Worship Event.

Douglas is on the faculty of both the Drama and Music Schools at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. He has degrees in Music Education and Voice Performance from both Clarion and Duquesne Universities in Pennsylvania. He and his wife, Ann, have two children, Justin and Courtney.

As a music leader in numerous events like ours, Douglas says, "My desire is to challenge people to discover a radical, personal relationship with God, which will not only revolutionize their life but cause them to have a much needed impact on the world around them."

It has been said of him that "he has a disarming way of presenting the Christian message through music, a fresh approach to songwriting, and a clear gift of leading people in praise and worship."

Douglas has been assistant musical

director of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Phantom of the Opera" in Basel, Switzerland with the Really Useful Company. He has also worked as musical director at the Pittsburgh Public Theater, West Virginia Public Theater and Carnegie Mellon University.

He has been a soloist with the Pittsburgh Opera, the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Canton Symphony, the

Please see Douglas, page 2.

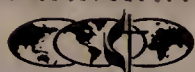


- Thom Douglas

## ON THE INSIDE . . .

- |                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2 What If?                        | 5 Monroe District News             |
| 2 Children's Home cards available | 6 New Orleans District News        |
| 3 1999 La. VIM opportunities      | 7 Ten tips for a simpler Christmas |
| 4 Lake Charles District News      | 8 Lomax inaugurated at Dillard     |





Bishop Dan Solomon

## Being and Doing

# What If?



What if the gaunt and fearful face of the hungry child we saw on television were our child—or grandchild—or the child of a dear friend—or the child of a family we knew only casually in our community? What if our sister's family had a child that needed special care, either emotionally or physically? What if our brother became captive to addiction and depression? What if the fear of walking our city streets at night so overwhelms us that we experience a seething anger and hatred that is in its own way as destructive as the violence overtly expressed around us?

What if we become immune, both to the tragedy of life's brokenness around us and also the signs of love and help and healing that are also present? What if we simply avoid the world's problems and the efforts to address them?

United Methodism's ministries of help and compassion have often been dismissed, along with the need they try to address. "Apportionments," like the body count of Hurricane Mitch, leave us with statistics that numb us, but do not move us. Amidst the raging seas of human destruction, it is difficult to appreciate the few boats that in fact are successful in saving some survivors. What if we could see these boats in new and appreciative ways?

Jesus people have been given new eyes with which to see, new ears with which to hear, new hearts with which to love and new hands with which to help! In Jesus, we have experienced a new way to think about friendship, neighborhood and family. Suddenly, we have met "our mothers, brothers, sisters and fathers" in new ways. What if "our family" urgently needs help?

William Wordsworth, the poet, experienced the devastating loss of his brother to a drowning accident. In reflecting on how the tragedy had influenced his own faith and life, Wordsworth wrote, "a deep distress hath humanized my soul."

What if the deep distress of children in need of tutoring, urban ghettos in need of hope, people in Bosnia and Kosovo in need of food, clothing and shelter were to humanize the soul of apportionments? These are our children, our sisters and brothers in a family Jesus has recreated and into which He has been gracious

enough to include us!

What if we smiled when we heard the word "apportionments" because we felt a joy in our hearts that we could help a small boat tossed frantically on life's turbulent seas carry a few more of our sisters and brothers to safety?

What if Louisiana United Methodist congregations embraced gratitude so joyfully that the transforming discovery-- "it is more

blessed to give than to receive" --grasped the whole church family? What if Louisiana United Methodist congregations counted the days until the end of the year and then praised God that they had so much time left to be the compassionate family of Jesus and to reach 100 percent of their "portion—meant—for—others?"

What if we could see hurting people, helping hands and loving hearts, not as irritating obligations or distant necessity, but as "family," lovingly embraced by souls both "humanized" and "Christianized."

Dan E. Solomon

**Apportionments,  
like the body  
count of  
Hurricane Mitch,  
leave us with  
statistics that  
numb us, but do  
not move us.**

## Correction

In the Nov. 13 issue of the *LUM Review* in the front-page story about aid to Nicaragua, we incorrenctly identified **Rev. Gene Finnell**, pastor of First UMC, Covington, as "Gray" Finnell. Please forgive us, Rev. Finnell.

Also, **Rev. Kibbie Hatfield's** father

died recently and we referred to Rev. Hatfield as "him" in the "In Memoriam" article. Rev. Hatfield is one of our female pastors and we apologize for the mistake.

We are sorry if these errors have caused any inconvenience.

## Study finds black churches lacking funds

(UMNS) Many black congregations in the United States are suffering from financial difficulties and have little money left over for outreach ministries once their basic needs are met, according to a new study.

The findings are included in "Financing African-American Churches," a groundbreaking study on giving within black churches. The study was released recently by the Institute of Church Administration and Management, the church management training and research arm of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta.

The two-year national study examined the factors that influence giving to the black church. The expansive study involved all of the traditional black denominations and surveyed 3,636 church members from 141 churches. The results included reports from urban, suburban and rural congregations. Pastors of each of the congregations also were interviewed to gain information on membership size, church budgets and other areas.

The ITC is a consortium of six seminaries of different denominations serving the black community and is the nation's leading academy for African-American religious training and graduate education. United Methodist-related Gammon Theological Seminary is part of the center's denominational constituency.

More than 54 percent of black church members surveyed reported serious

financial problems in their individual congregations. A disproportionate share of United Methodist and Disciples of Christ churches indicated monetary difficulties, while the least financially troubled reported by members were non-denominational, Presbyterian, Church of God in Christ and African Methodist Episcopal churches.

A typical African-American congregation, with an average attendance of 250 people, spends 77 percent of its income to maintain basic church operations and programs, leaving little extra for outreach ministries. The total median amount that a black church annually spends is \$181,500, the survey said.

The black church, "the only really independent black institution in America," has been both a longtime supporter and sustainer of African Americans, especially throughout slavery and the civil rights struggles of the 1960s, according to a briefing paper released by ITC.

The study also was initiated to discover whether black churches are capable of increased outreach efforts since governmental assistance programs have been cut back, corporations have downsized and affirmative action opportunities are being denied, said Walter Collier, lead researcher for the study.

The "disturbing findings" do not bode well for the ability of black churches to provide outreach services to their communities, Collier said.

### Douglas, continued from front page.

Children's Festival Chorus, and the River City Brass Band. Besides many other accomplishments, he is the founder and artistic director of the Pittsburgh Chorale-East and the Pinnacle Players, a music theatre company for performers over 30 years old.

More than 100 of our full-time colleagues under appointment have not yet registered for the January Spiritual Renewal Retreat--"Tending Our Life

Together."

The music alone ought to get you there. Consider it a *command performance*. We do not want to miss anyone. In the words of John Wesley on spiritual renewal, "It is for our Life!"

Registration information is available in every District Office, at the Conference Center, and at the Conference Office in Baton Rouge.

You are going to like this!

## Heading for Hallmark? Try Children's Home 'Festival of Trees' cards first

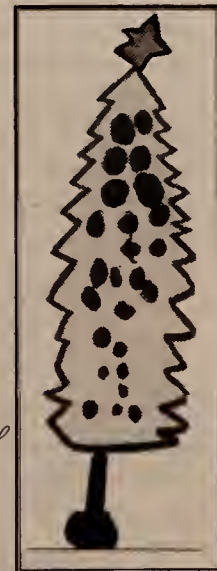
The Christmas card season is fast approaching! Before you head to Hallmark, think about sharing your season's greetings this year with cards designed by children at The Methodist Home for Children in New Orleans.

This Christmas, they are printing a limited quantity of their "Festival of Trees" card collection. Each packet has 12 full-color cards and envelopes (4 cards each of 3 different tree designs) designed by the children. Each package sells for \$10 (plus shipping) and are available for pickup or shipping.

What a great way to share the Methodist Home story with your friends and family! Call Rossi Maggiore at (504) 895-7709 to order or for more information.

*May the joy of this season fill your heart and the hearts of those you love.*

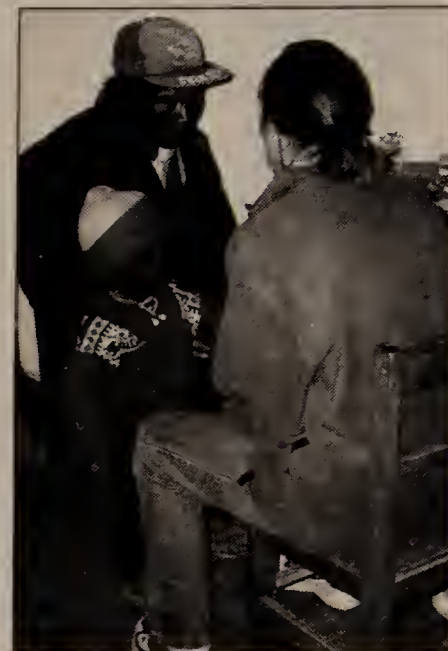
The artwork for this card was created by Thelma, age 9.





# 1999 Louisiana VIM Mission Opportunities

| COUNTRY/DATE           | LOCATION                                   | TEAM LEADER                    | COST   | TASK                              |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Alaska</b>          |                                            |                                |        |                                   |
| August 5-15            | Wasilla                                    | Sarah Schoeffler               | \$1050 | Construction                      |
| <b>Bolivia</b>         |                                            |                                |        |                                   |
| April 2-18             | Inka Caturapi                              | Alan Jordan/Karl Klaus         | 1300   | Construction                      |
| May 21-30              | Oruro                                      | Ricky Willis                   | 1300   | Construction                      |
| September 10-19        | Cochabamba                                 | Jim Martin                     | 1300   | Medical                           |
| <b>Bosnia</b>          |                                            |                                |        |                                   |
| June 25-July 9         | Zenica                                     | Dale Hensarling                | 2100   | Construction                      |
| August 13-28           | Zenica                                     | Karl Klaus                     | 2100   | Construction                      |
| <b>Brazil</b>          |                                            |                                |        |                                   |
| April 16-26            | Gov. Valadares                             | Fred Cory                      | 1450   | Construction                      |
| <b>Chile</b>           |                                            |                                |        |                                   |
| March 15-16            | Pachica                                    | Jerry Hilbun                   | 1300   | Construction                      |
| <b>Cuba</b>            |                                            |                                |        |                                   |
| October 15-24          | Havana                                     | Larry Norman                   | TBA    | Construction                      |
| <b>El Salvador</b>     |                                            |                                |        |                                   |
| May 22-30              | Ahuachapan                                 | Buddy Frenzel                  | 900    | Construction                      |
| <b>Honduras*</b>       |                                            |                                |        |                                   |
| October 2-10           | San Pedro Salo                             | Buddy Frenzel                  | TBA    | Construction                      |
| <b>Mexico</b>          |                                            |                                |        |                                   |
| January 7-10           | Rio Bravo                                  | TBA                            | 275    | Medical                           |
| February 4-7           | Rio Bravo                                  | TBA                            | 275    | Medical                           |
| March 4-7              | Rio Bravo                                  | TBA                            | 275    | Medical                           |
| April 8-11             | Rio Bravo                                  | Roger Templeton                | 275    | Medical                           |
| 17-23                  | Lydia Patterson Institute                  | Freddie Henderson/Larry Maddin | 395    | Construction/Educational          |
| May 6-9                | Rio Bravo                                  | TBA                            | 275    | Medical                           |
| 23-28                  | Operation Hogar, Juarez                    | Ken Irby                       | 385    | Construction                      |
| June 3-6               | Rio Bravo                                  | TBA                            | 275    | Medical                           |
| July 1-4               | Rio Bravo                                  | TBA                            | 275    | Medical                           |
| August 5-8             | Rio Bravo                                  | TBA                            | 275    | Medical                           |
| September 2-5          | Rio Bravo                                  | TBA                            | 275    | Medical                           |
| 30-Oct. 3              | Rio Bravo                                  | TBA                            | 275    | Medical                           |
| November 4-7           | Rio Bravo                                  | TBA                            | 275    | Medical                           |
| December 2-5           | Rio Bravo                                  | TBA                            | 275    | Medical                           |
| <b>Spain</b>           |                                            |                                |        |                                   |
| February 12-21         | Barcelona                                  | Larry Norman                   | 880    | Construction                      |
| March 5-17             | Madrid                                     | Don Cottrill                   | 880    | Construction                      |
| <b>USA</b>             |                                            |                                |        |                                   |
| January 15-16          | VIM Leader Training                        | Larry Norman                   | 60     | Training                          |
| February 28            | VIM Gathering                              | Sarah Schoeffler               | TBA    | Annual Celebration                |
| March 1-6              | Mt. Sequoyah Bishop's Cottage              | Steve Porter                   | 32     | Construction                      |
| 7-13                   | Mt. Sequoyah Bishop's Cottage              | Darryl Tate                    | 32     | Construction                      |
| 14-20                  | Mt. Sequoyah Bishop's Cottage              | Wybra Price                    | 32     | Construction                      |
| 21-27                  | Mt. Sequoyah Bishop's Cottage              | Nancy LeTard                   | 32     | Construction                      |
| June 23-24             | Mt. Sequoyah Bishop's Cottage              | Treva Hall                     | TBA    | Construction                      |
| September 26-October 2 | Mt. Sequoyah                               | LaMarylis Cotten               | 90     | General Construction              |
| June 4-6               | Takin' It To The Streets '99<br>Shreveport | TBA                            | TBA    | Annual Conference<br>Mission Work |
| August 22-28           | Red Bird Missionary Conference             | Jim Wilson/Ellen Blue          | TBA    | Construction                      |
| October 11-17          | Heifer Project International               | Willis Dear                    | 175    | Construction/Education            |

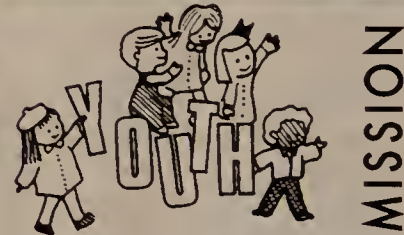


La. VIM in Bolivia

Above: A medical volunteer helps a village father and son.

Below: A small boy waits for medical care.

Photos by Larry Norman



June 20-25 Sager-Brown/UMCOR  
(Construction/Depot)  
Lynda Ingram

July 25-31 Heifer Project Intl.  
(Construct./Educ.)  
Dick Scott-Welch/  
Judy Willis

Aug. 1-7 Mysterious Mission  
(Construction)  
Marie Williams/  
Clifton Curtis

## Please Note:

This is not a complete list. Some missions are still in negotiation; many opportunities for the U.S. and Louisiana will be announced at a later date.

\*Other teams will be added to Honduras as soon as volunteers are allowed in the country.

## LOUISIANA

HEIFER PROJECT • AGRICULTURAL • UNITED • METHODIST PRES • CENTER • BELIE • INITIATIVE • SAGE  
BROWN CENTER • LING MINIST • S • MEXICO CITY • HONDURAS • OPERA • JAGAR • JAHAKA  
MONTAINE • BL • EN RESPONSE • LAC COOPERATI • ENISTRY • HONDURAS • YOUTH IN MISSION •  
LIA INITIATIVE • LASHA • UNCOR • POT • COOKSON • S • REDBIRD MISSIONARY CONFERENCE • YOG  
• HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL • UNITED METHOD • IRIES • MEXICO • MINISTRY • HONDURAS • OPERACION HOGAR • JAHAKA  
BROWN CENTER FOR ENABLING • ITIES • COOPERATI • OT • COOKSON • S • REDBIRD MISSIONARY CONFERENCE • YOG  
MYERREY • DISASTER RESPON • UNITED METHOD • IRIES • MEXICO • ULAC COOPERATI • OT • COOKSON • S • REDBIRD MISSIONARY CONFERENCE • YOG  
INITIATIVE • ALASKA • UNC • HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATI • IRIES • MEXICO • ULAC COOPERATI • OT • COOKSON • S • REDBIRD MISSIONARY CONFERENCE • YOG  
OWN CENTER FOR ENABLI • IRIES • MEXICO • ULAC COOPERATI • OT • COOKSON • S • REDBIRD MISSIONARY CONFERENCE • YOG  
TURE • DISASTER RESI • TATIVE • ALASKA • I • ROJECT INTERNATIONAL • IRIES • MEXICO CITY • LAC COOPERATI • ENISTRY • HONDURAS • OPERA • JAGAR • JAHAKA  
Y • DISASTER RJ • S • MEXICO CITY • LAC COOPERATI • ENISTRY • HONDURAS • OPERA • JAGAR • JAHAKA • YOUTH IN MISSION •

To sign up for any of these VIM opportunities, please call the team leaders or the Louisiana Conference VIM Office at (888) 239-5286.

The address for the VIM Office is:  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802





# Lake Charles District News

816 Kirkman Street  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
(318) 439-2982

**District Superintendent**  
J. Lawrence Maddin

**Communication Advisor**  
Constance Handy

## District contributes to Mission in Motion success

The Lake Charles District's effort to collect disaster relief supplies during the Mission in Motion drive was declared very successful by District Superintendent Dr. Larry Maddin.

Local churches throughout the district collected 31 pallets, weighing over 10,000 pounds, which were sent to the United Methodist Committee on Relief's Depot at the Sager-Brown facility in Baldwin.

Materials collected from visits to Jennings UMC, DeRidder First UMC, and St. Luke-Simpson UMC in the Lake Charles District were expected to be quickly distributed by UMCOR to victims of Hurricanes Georges and Mitch.

The campaign was headed by District Coordinator Walter Strong of Maplewood UMC, Sulphur, and Walter Denton of First UMC, Lake Charles. Transportation of the trailer was graciously and skillfully provided by Guy Caesar, C & E Supply, Eunice, and a member of St. Margaret's Catholic Church in Eunice. The trailer was on loan from Davidson Trucking in Ruston.

## News, anyone?

If you have stories, news articles and pictures you would like included in the next Lake Charles District page, please contact **Constance Abraham-Handy**, district communication advisor, at (318) 474-4187. The mailing address is 2706 Walden Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70607.

# "We were where God wanted us to be."

## Henning Memorial UMC conducts Honduras mission

by Constance Abraham-Handy  
District Communication Advisor

Prior to Hurricane Mitch, which has devastated Honduras, members of Henning Memorial UMC, Sulphur, recently completed a medical and dental mission trip to Las Delicias.

The team consisted of a dentist, medical doctor, pharmacist, dental hygienist and nurse practitioner, as well as registered nurses, interpreters, and many "go-fers" and assistants. While the majority of the volunteers were United Methodists, there were also Baptists and Catholics along on the trip, all with the goal of ministering to the people by providing for their basic health care needs. The team went to help all, regardless of religious denomination; being a Christian was not a pre-requisite for receiving care.

This mission team worked in conjunction with the Christian Council for Development (CCD). CCD, the largest Protestant help organization in Honduras, is an Honduran Christian Association which provides training in 110 rural communities and employs 64 people. United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) sends all items designated for Honduras through this organization.

Communities the CCD serves are chosen because of their inaccessibility, poverty, illiteracy, lack of basic services and desire for a better life.

During the trip, a medical clinic, dental clinic and pharmacy were set up. People would walk two to three hours for the opportunity to be seen in one of the clinics. People came from every direction.

When patients initially arrived, the nurse would complete a card with information about the current complaint and their medical history. They would then walk to another site, card in hand, for treatment at the medical or dental clinic. The medical team was housed in a room that was approximately 10 x 8 feet. The dental clinic was located a short distance from the medical clinic. After leaving either of these clinics, patients walked up a hill to the pharmacy, where they received their medication. Even though the floors of the clinics were cement, there was a lot of mud tracked in daily that one of the villagers swept out.

Over 45,000 adult and children multi-purpose vitamins were sent to Honduras with the team. Local doctors and pharmaceutical companies helped accumulate all of the medicines taken with them. Several of the participants even drove to Ft.



A dental team works on one of 200 patients seen during a recent mission trip.

Worth, Tex., to the food bank to load up a trailer of medicines.

Over 1,000 patients of all ages were seen in the clinics. While the dentist saw only 150-200 patients, he pulled 994 teeth. By Wednesday, the third of the four-day clinic, his fingers had blisters on them and he couldn't straighten out his hands from pulling so many teeth! A record number—293 patients—were seen in one day at the medical clinic.

According to team leaders Buddy Frenzel and Rev. Tracy MacKenzie, associate pastor at Henning Memorial, the blessings received from this trip were obvious!

"We were 18 people who didn't know much. We followed



Villagers wait to receive medical and dental care in the village of Las Delicias.

the lead of connectionalism of The United Methodist Church. This is a holy and anointing experience to humble yourself and know: God sent me."

As one member of the mission team said, "We were where God wanted us to be."

## Church organist marks 93rd birthday

Carrie "Gramma" Montgomery is dedicating her life to providing musical enjoyment for others.

Nineteen years ago, at 74, Montgomery found her place for service waiting for her at Squyres UMC, Ragley, when she moved there to be closer to her granddaughter and family, Mary-Beth and Greg Henry.

Today, at 93, Montgomery continues to play the organ and piano at regular 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services,

Vacation Bible School, weddings, all special services and many school functions.

Her local family, church congregation and Community Education Club, during the week of August 23-30 celebrated Montgomery's 93rd birthday during Carrie "Gramma" Montgomery Week.

As a result of this birthday celebration, Montgomery will continue to play for only the 9 a.m. church service and for the church gatherings of her choosing.

What a bang-up celebration she had!



Carrie "Gramma" Montgomery

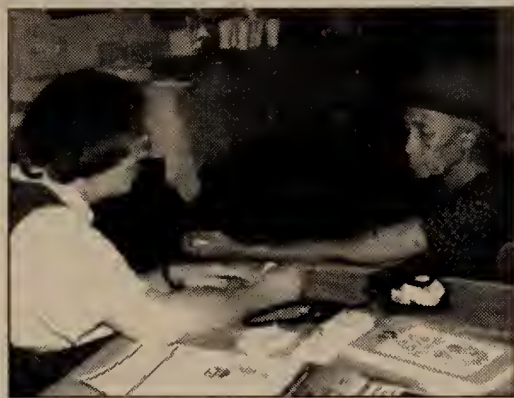


## Around the District

The United Methodist Women at **Crew Lake UMC** have been busy this year with many projects to assist in the life of the church and community.

One particular project, started in 1997, was helping children in need in the Start, La. community. Seeking to learn what needs were greatest, the women discovered that some parents could not afford to purchase the necessary school supplies for their children. This was a project the UMW decided to undertake. The result was a gift of over \$200 in school supplies given to the local elementary school for the past two years.

The women hope to continue this project in the future. School officials were delighted with the gift, according to Frances Horne, UMW president.



**St. James UMC** recently hosted "Making a Difference," a Health/Christian Wellness Fair sponsored by the church's Filhiol Shalom Community. Above, St. Paul UMC member and nurse Kathy Moore conducts a blood pressure test for a member of the community.

A special Missions Emphasis Program was held Sunday, October 18, at **McGuire UMC**.

Rev. Larry Norman, director of Volunteers In Mission for the Conference, was the speaker. With the theme "The World Is Our Parish", the meeting was fun, as well as informative and inspirational. Foods from various parts of the world were sampled, and interesting and beautiful things gathered from around the world by the congregation were on display. Prizes were awarded for the most authentic foods and for the most interesting displays of treasures from other lands.

Rev. Norman also spoke at the 8:30 and 10:30 services Sunday morning. The program was part of a month long celebration of McGuire's 50th Anniversary. Visitors from other churches in the area, especially those interested in Volunteers In Mission, had a special invitation to attend.

## Send us your news!

Please share your church news and photos with us. Send them to:

**Betty Martin,**  
District Communication Advisor  
411 Macon Street  
Winnsboro, LA 71295

## Campers contribute to Heifer Project

by Monroe District Office

Give me a long 'M'! So begins "Milk," a favorite song at the Elementary Camp, held this summer at Caney Conference Centre, a UM facility in Minden, managed by Rev. Terral and Evelyn Lowe. At the camp, "Milk" became the theme song for the Water Buffalo group, one of eight small groups designed to teach 62 fifth and sixth graders about Heifer Project International (HPI).

HPI was selected as a mission project for the week-long camp as a way to respond to the theme "Here Am I, Lord," demonstrating how we can serve others at home and around the world.

Throughout the week the children, pictured right, were challenged and encouraged to contribute from their snack money to assist with HPI efforts. The campers proved to be generous in their sacrificial giving, foregoing cokes and candy bars. One youngster was seen donating all her remaining money to the cause on Friday.



Campers at Caney collect money to assist HPI projects.

Staff also contributed, with a matching gift of \$100. By the end of the week, \$310 had been raised. Campers decided to purchase a water buffalo for \$250 and a trio of rabbits for \$60. Co-directors Judy Willis (Monroe Dist.) and Bill Moon (Shreveport Dist.) were delighted with the enthusiastic response.

Caney had a very successful camping season. Even the heat didn't keep the 521 campers from attending. The spirit of Christ is alive and well in the camping program. Campers lives are changed!

## Lake Providence UMC celebrates 170 years

by Mildred Bonner

The congregation of Lake Providence UMC celebrated its 170th anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 4.

According to area church history, Methodists were meeting along the Mississippi River in northern Louisiana in the early 1800's, when circuit riders would make their frequent appearances, traveling by horseback and sometimes by boat.

The local church congregations met at first in outdoor campgrounds, where brush arbors served as the worship settings. When the circuit rider appeared, he would sometimes stay in the community a week or more. Services would sometimes last all day with dinner on the grounds. He would christen babies, solemnize weddings, and conduct graveside services for those who had recently died. If it rained, services were moved to the local schoolhouse. The visit of the circuit rider was a great time in the frontier settlement.

Lake Providence Church history mentions Lorenzo Dow as one of these circuit riders serving the Pecan Grove Methodist Church from 1828-32, which was erected on the banks of the Mississippi River. In 1855 an organization of Methodists and Presbyterians was formed to build a church, which was then shared on alternate Sundays for worship. In 1872 the structure of a town business was purchased; hence the reference to the "Meat Market Church," and also as "the Little Church around the Corner," by the local newspaper. In January 1887, the Lake Street Church property was purchased

for \$140.00 cash and the church was dedicated in June 1887.

The present church location was donated by Mrs. Emma Saint Ingram in her will, dated September 23, 1890. It included her house, to be used as a parsonage, and a lot on which a beautiful Victorian style structure was built as the Lake Providence Methodist Episcopal Church, South. In 1963, when this building was dismantled, the stained glass windows and oak altar rails were saved and used in the new church chapel and hallway.

The present church, first used on Easter Sunday, April 14, 1963, is a classic red brick style with a high pitched roof, topped by a stone cross at the front entrance. On August 11, 1963, Bishop Walton laid the cornerstone and dedicated the Moller Organ.

The entire structure surrounds a grass courtyard in which is located the large, historic plantation bell, which served Willow Point Plantation. The bell was bought by the church in 1863 and hung in the Lake Street Church belfry in June, 1887. It has rung for all the congregations since then.

On this special anniversary, the congregation was encouraged to dress in frontier style and welcome former members. The local congregation of the Presbyterian Church was also invited to share in the celebration.

From brush arbors to brick, the church structure may have changed, but the strong and abiding Christian faith and warm fellowship still abound with this congregation of Lake Providence UMC.

# Monroe District News



909 North 18th Street  
Suite 206  
Monroe, LA 70201  
(318) 387-7364

**District Superintendent**  
Rev. Marie Williams  
**Communication Advisor**  
Betty S. Martin

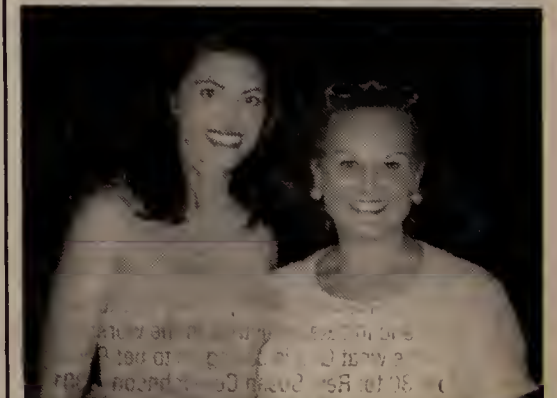
## Miss La. 1998 delivers anti-drug message

by Lynn B. Duncan

Puppets and magic tricks were used to convey Miss Louisiana, Heather Dupree's, recent message on drugs and alcohol at First UMC, Farmerville.

Her platform interest focuses on drug education and conflict management skills. She is founder of H.A.N.D.S., "Heroes Against Needless Drugs Say No," and is a spokesperson for the "I Care" Organization of Baton Rouge and "Louisiana Cares for Children," a school-based drug prevention program, which is endorsed by the U. S. Department of Education and the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

Heather is pictured below with her traveling companion, Lynn B. Duncan, education chairperson and Sunday school teacher at the church.







# New Orleans District News



3401 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119  
(504) 488-5430

**District Superintendent**  
Rev. Freddie Henderson

**District Communication Advisor**  
Dian Kent

## On A Scripture

Romans 8:28 – "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose." (RSV)

This scripture was brought to my attention early in my life by my grandfather. I committed it to memory and have meditated on it dozens of times. God's Word encourages, comforts and strengthens me when I realize that He has a plan for my life and that everything around me can be orchestrated to support His purpose. I do love Him and I know that He loves me!

**Rev. Arnold Roberts**  
Belle Chase UMC

## Let us tell your story ...

Let us tell your story. If you have a story to tell about your church or your members, please contact the New Orleans District Communication Advisor, Dian Kent at 368-2567. You may also contact the New Orleans District Office at (504) 488-5430. Please mail information to: **Dian Kent, 837 Sumner Street New Orleans, Louisiana 70114**

## Conference to highlight adoption

The 4th Annual Conference of the Louisiana Adoption Advisory Board will be held in New Orleans at the Meridien Hotel in December 15-17.

The conference is designed to provide help to adoptive parents, birth parents, adoptees, adoption agencies, adoption attorneys, social workers and advocates.

Rev. Becky Conner, pastor of Jefferson UMC, has served as a board member for the past two years and is now an active member of the organization.

"We need to get the Church involved in promoting adoption. It supports the Bishops' Initiative on Children in Need," she said.

Rev. Conner is very interested in getting the word out that there are 300 children waiting for adoption in Louisiana. She is an adoptive parent and said that

there is no need to be afraid to adopt an older child.

Although there are many clergy families with adopted children, there are many more church families that can change a child's life.

If you are interested in making a difference for a child or would like further information on the adoption process, attend the upcoming conference. There is a \$35 registration fee. This fee is waived for adoptive parents or foster parents.

Sen. Mary Landrieu will be the featured speaker on Wednesday, Dec. 16, and Charmaine Neville will open the conference with the National Anthem.

For more information or registration information, call (800) 259-2456 or Rev. Becky Conner at (504) 833-2288.

The hotel is located at 614 Canal St.

## Wilson-Felder leads worship work shop



(Above) Rev. Cynthia Wilson-Felder, associate pastor of Music and Worship at Ben Hill UMC in Atlanta, Ga., recently led a music worship workshop designed to explore ways of reaching out to the un-churched younger generation. Below left, District Superintendent Freddie C. Henderson addressed the gathering. Below right, participants nourished body as well as spirit during the workshop.



## Youth collect blankets for area homeless

by Dian Kent  
District Communication Advisor

New Orleans District youth are holding a blanket-collection mission project to benefit the homeless in the New Orleans area.

The project will run through the month of December with the goal of collecting 200 blankets over a two-month period.

The youth have been charged to contact church members, family and friends for blanket donations. Blankets can be new or used, but all used blankets must be clean and in good condition. Electric blankets with cords removed also can be donated.

On Saturday, Jan. 9, 1999, blankets will be gathered at a service to be held at Felicity UMC, located at 1816 Chestnut St. in New Orleans. At this service, in addition to collecting the blankets, the youth will have fellowship and dedicate the blankets. At this time the blankets will be presented to representatives from the New Orleans Mission and Ozanam Inn, shelters located in New Orleans.

If you would like further information on this mission project, please contact New Orleans District youth coordinator, Dolores Giles, at (504) 833-4882 or the New Orleans District Office at (504) 488-5430.

## Christian education workshop slated for January

A Christian Education Workshop will be held at Rayne Memorial UMC, New Orleans, Jan. 23, from 9:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Registration and refreshments will begin at 9 a.m. Registration for the workshop is \$5.

The workshop will be led by Mary Jane Pierce Norton



**Pierce Norton**

who serves as Director of Family Ministries for the UM General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, Tenn. Norton has written many books on the ministry of teaching -- from infancy to adult students - and has a wealth of knowledge to share.

The workshop is open to anyone serving in the teaching ministry or interested in Christian education in the home. Music in Sunday school will also be a featured part of the workshop.

If you would like to register or have questions, please contact workshop coordinator Rev. Carol Sherer at (504) 899-3431 or the New Orleans District office at (504) 488-5430.



## A WORD TO WITNESS

### Give your burdens to the Lord

by Ann and Chris Anthony  
Fellowship UMC, Bossier City

We were in Super Wal-Mart the other day, a Saturday in late October, and we noticed that all the Christmas decorations were up and ready to go. Can it be that time of year again? Christmas 1998 is less than a month away. Thanksgiving is here. Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet?

In 1967, psychiatrists Thomas Holmes and Richard Rahe published a "life events" stressor scale in which they rated certain events compared to the amount of stress they caused. To no one's surprise, death of a loved one and divorce are rated very highly. However, childbirth, vacations, and yes, the holiday season, are all included. The point is, even events that we perceive as being good, can be quite stressful. While some stress is necessary and even desirable in motivating us and helping us to obtain our goals, too much stress can be harmful, both physically and emotionally.

The strains of the holidays can be psychological, especially in dealings with

families or too great expectations of the holidays; they can be financial in that we spend too much money; of course, they can be physical in that we over indulge in merry-making, eating, and imbibing.

To combat the holiday "blues", we can follow these important strategies:

Acknowledge your feelings in dealing with family issues;

seek support if you feel yourself getting down;

be realistic concerning holiday expectations; set differences aside when dealing with family or friends;

budget your time and money; plan ahead and stick to your schedule;

don't abandon helpful habits; and set aside quiet time and prayer time for yourself.

We certainly want the best time for ourselves and our families during the holidays. However, let us never forget the true meaning of the season.

*Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall. Psalm 55:22*

## Ten tips for a simpler, more meaningful Christmas

As the holiday rush begins, the LUM Review once again offers the following tips from *Alternatives for Simple Living*:

1) Plan ahead. Instead of going on auto pilot the day after Thanksgiving, hold a family meeting to decide what the group really wants to do and who's going to do what.

2) If you need a symbol for giving (in addition to Jesus and the Wise Ones), learn about St. Nicholas. Santa Claus has been completely taken over by commerce.

3) Avoid debt. Refuse to be pressured by advertising to overspend.

4) Avoid stress. Give to yourself. Don't assume that things have to be the same as they have been.

5) Draw names rather than everyone giving to everyone else in your giving circle. Set a ceiling for each recipient. Give children ONE thing they really want, rather than so many gifts. If need be, pool funds.

6) Give appropriate gifts. Get to know the recipient. Give what he/she needs, not

what you want to buy.

7) Give alternative gifts. Give 25 percent of what you spent last year to the truly needy--individuals or groups locally, nationally or internationally. Give of yourself, not just stuff--a coupon book for future services (such as babysitting or "an enchanted evening") or something baked, sewn, handmade, composed, etc.

8) Celebrate Advent for four weeks before Christmas.

9) Put the gifts under the tree shortly before opening them. Then take turns opening them, not all at once, so that each gift can be admired and each giver thanked.

10) Make a change slowly, but persistently. Don't try to change everything and everybody all at once. The resistance may make you feel defeated and lonely.

For more help and a free catalog of ideas, contact *Alternatives for Simple Living* at 800-821-6153. Reprinted from *Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?*



## Life-and-death problems worsen among world's children, report to bishops says

NORCROSS, Ga. (UMNS)--Life-and-death problems facing the world's children continue to worsen, despite signs of hope,



Children in Luanda

Photo by James Haynes

according to a report on a United Methodist bishops' initiative.

"The more we focus our attention on children and the poor, the more aware we become of the extremity of the plight of the 'least of these,'" according to a review of the Council of Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty, which began in 1995. The review was presented to the bishops on Nov. 4.

"Accelerating gaps between the enriched and the impoverished in the United States and

around the world place growing millions at risk," the statement said. "The global economy increasingly resembles a giant casino in which the few are enormously enriched, while myriads toil without prospect of a decent chance at life's necessities.

"Children and the poor continue to be the primary victims of violence; and growing violence by children against children shockingly illustrates the poverty of spirit present in our communities and nations."

Children are dying from

poverty-related causes at the rate of 1,458 per hour, Bishop Marshall L. (Jack) Meadors, Jr. of Jackson, Miss., told his colleagues during their autumn meeting at Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center. The cost of treating one child could be as little as 10 cents, he said. Meadors is chairman of the bishops' initiative.

According to a report by the United Nations Children's Fund, malnutrition is a factor in the deaths of more than half of the nearly 12 million children under age 5 who die each year in

developing countries. An estimated 67 million children are below the weight they should be for their height.

Part of the bishops' initiative on children focuses on raising \$12 million through a "Hope for the Children of Africa" appeal. The bishops personally have pledged more than \$100,000 to the effort.

In Louisiana, churches have pledged to donate \$200,000, which will be presented at Annual Conference 1999 in Shreveport during a special "Miracle Night Offering."

## Connected Through 'A Portion Meant' for Others'

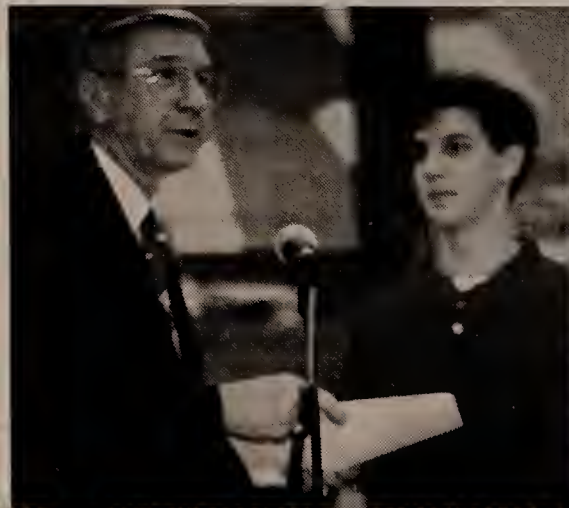
### I wondered how I was going to make it

by Bishop Dan Solomon

Recently a seminary student expressed profound gratitude for the "extra" scholarship funds that came because Louisiana United Methodists are paying apportionments at an increased level. The student said "I wondered how I was going to make it."

Many of our seminary students graduate with significant debt. Thank you, Louisiana United Methodists, for your strong support of connectional ministries. The result is as real as one of our students completing school and returning to lead our churches.

One of our Conference committees is plan-



Bishop Dan Solomon presents an award to future college student Jared Williams at Annual Conference 1998.

ning an event that is urgently needed for the enhancement of ministry skills for laity and clergy. The comment was made, "Now that apportionments are being paid at a higher level we have the funds to make this a really strong event." Thank you, Louisiana United Methodists, for undergirding ministry leadership in the Louisiana Conference.

With only two months left it is extremely important that we undertake now those steps that will insure that our individual congregations achieve a 100 percent victory. Now is the time to "pull out all the stops."



# AROUND THE CONFERENCE NEWS

## A HIGH NOTE!

### Choir scholarship helps students, enriches choir

by Hope Norman  
First UMC, Alexandria

The Sanctuary Choir of First UMC, Alexandria, has recently established a choir scholarship for local college students who are music majors. Its purpose is two-fold: to enrich the choir membership and to assist students with their college expenses.

The students are paid a monthly stipend to attend choir rehearsals and to participate in Sunday morning worship. Already the benefits include significant improvement in choir performance through the inspiration of the young and talented singers.

Funds for the initial semesters were raised by donations from choir members and other members of the congregation. The first recipients, both sopranos and freshman music majors at Louisiana College, are Jill Diamond of Lafayette and Michelle DeBoer of Pineville.

Dr. Curt Hamlett, Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Louisiana College, Pineville, is currently the music director at First UMC.

For further information, contact Gil Rolak, choir president, at (318) 445-4461.

### Louisiana Conference Edition of the United Methodist Review

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

#### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Dr. Rena Yocom, Area Director, Gospel Communications

Bobbie Armstrong, Editor

Joshua Lewis, Contributing Writer

Dr. Alonzo Campbell

Subscriptions: \$12.50 per year  
(Please make checks payable to Louisiana Annual Conference.)

Send subscriptions, news and information to:  
Editor

527 North Boulevard

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

1 (888) 239-5286

(225)346-1646, (225) 383-2652 fax

**Please do not fax articles; send original typed copy—not all caps. Thanks!**

(NEW) e-mail: editor@premier.net

#### On the Web

You can find the Louisiana Annual Conference on the Internet at

<http://www.gbgn-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>

#### DEADLINE FOR:

December 11 Issue—Nov. 30  
December 25 Issue—Dec. 7

## Lomax inaugurated as Dillard University's seventh president

Dr. Charles Ferguson, chair, Board of Trustees, presents the mace to Dr. Michael L. Lomax, seventh president of Dillard University, during inauguration festivities in New Orleans on the Rosa Freeman Keller Avenue of the Oaks, Sunday, Oct. 18.



### Handy, continued from front page.

Rouge, Louisiana, before joining the staff of the United Methodist Publishing House (in Nashville) in 1968. He served first as a publishing representative and then became vice president for Personnel Services, the first African American named to an executive position at the Publishing House.

At the time of Bishop Handy's death, former President and Publisher John Proctor said, "I haven't known a more dedicated individual in my lifetime."

In 1978, Handy was appointed superintendent of the Baton Rouge-Lafayette District of the Louisiana Annual Conference. While in that position, he was elected a bishop in 1980. He was assigned to the Missouri Area where he served for 12 years until his retirement in 1992. He and his wife Ruth moved back to Nashville where he provided pastoral care for Publishing House staff members.

Bishop Handy, active in many church-wide agencies, was a delegate to five General Conferences beginning in 1964. He provided significant leadership in the development of "In Defense of Creation," a pastoral document on nuclear disarmament released by the United Methodist Council of Bishops. He was also on the committee that created

the revised *United Methodist Hymnal*.

The Rev. Carleton Young, editor of the hymnal, described Bishop Handy as the "people's voice" during heated debates on which hymns to select for the new book.

"If elitist tendencies started showing up, Bishop Handy always persisted in asking, 'Will the folks sing it?'" recalled Young.

In August, Bishop and Mrs. Handy would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have three children—Dorothy Denise Davis, Stephen E. Handy, and Mercedes Ruth Cowley—and six grandchildren.

Bishop Handy was a sports enthusiast and collected vintage jazz and big band records as a hobby.

Nearing his retirement in 1992, *Newscope* asked Bishop Handy what advice he would give those entering ministry. He responded, "Preach the Word, love the

people, and constantly be about personal spiritual growth and development."

Bishop Handy did preach the word effectively and enthusiastically. He loved people and treated everyone with dignity and compassion. He was constantly about personal spiritual growth and development which enabled him to be an effective ambassador for Christ in all that he said and did. -- Tom McAnnally (UMNS)



Dorothy Denise Davis, daughter of Bishop and Mrs. Handy, accepts a plaque from Rev. Alvin J. Horton, president of UMAC, commemorating her father's induction into the UMAC Hall of Fame. UMNS photo by Mike Dubose

## Coming soon

Hope UMC, Monroe, will celebrate its fifth anniversary, Dec. 6. Bishop Dan E. Solomon will bring the message at the 3 p.m. service.

The church is located at 700 S. 6th Street in Monroe. Everyone is invited. Call (318) 387-5757 for information.

Don't forget to register for the **Youth New Year's Retreat** at the Conference Center Dec. 31-Jan. 2, 1999.

The event will feature dinner, a concert New Year's Eve by Small Town Poets (this is a change from the band originally announced) from 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Then you can dance 'til dawn to your favorite tunes.

New Year's Day will be full of activities led by Rev. Lisa Lucas.

The cost is \$70 per person plus \$15 for concert tickets.

For more information or to make reservations, call the Conference Center at (318) 449-4500.

Cool, dude. 'Gotta be there!

## In Memoriam

Our prayers and condolences go to: the family of Mrs. Sidney Claire Kilpatrick, surviving spouse of Rev. John Frederick Kilpatrick (Shreveport District), on her death Nov. 5. Her funeral was held Nov. 9 at Broadmoor UMC in Shreveport.

Rev. Stephen Fleming, pastor, St. Luke's UMC, Baton Rouge, on the death of his father, Mr. J. Edwin Fleming, Nov. 14. His funeral was held Nov. 17 in Dallas.

Rev. Rich Cockburn, pastor, Mooringsport-Oil City-Belcher UMCs (Shreveport District), on the death of his mother, Mrs. Marilyn Cockburn, Nov. 14. Her funeral was held Nov. 20 in Houston.

## CONFERENCE Program Calendar

| December |                                                         |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 5        | Conference Center Board Meeting                         |
| 4-6      | JR. High Retreat (7th & 8th Grades), Conference Center  |
| 8-10     | Cabinet Retreat                                         |
| January  |                                                         |
| 4-5      | SCJ Church Growth and Development, New Orleans          |
| 7-10     | VIM-Rio Bravo, Mexico, Medical                          |
| 8-9      | The Academy for Spiritual Leadership, Conference Center |
| 11-15    | Perkins School of Youth Ministry                        |
| 12-14    | District Missioners, Baton Rouge                        |
| 13-14    | Cabinet Meeting, Baton Rouge                            |



Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
225.346.1646  
/225.383.2652 fax

CONFERENCE

edition

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

018000

Send PS Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

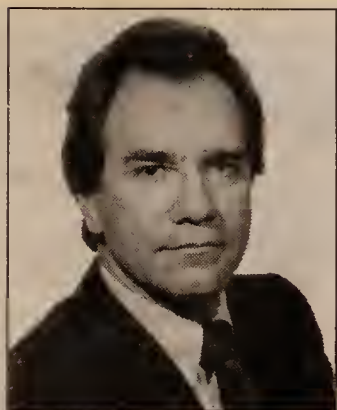
Vol. 15 No. 26 ■ December 11, 1998

## Retreat to focus on 'building covenant'

by Rev. Judy Shema

Dr. Norman Shawchuck will be the retreat leader for the January spiritual retreat for all persons serving under appointment.

The event to be held at the Conference Center in Woodworth, is the culmination of Bishop Dan Solomon's dream to bring all appointed ministers from local churches together to build covenant and to talk to each other regarding our common quest.



Norman Shawchuck

Dr. Shawchuck is in national demand as a consultant on how to build stronger and more responsive ministry programs. A very practical person, Shawchuck

believes that each event should provide participants with tools and concepts they can utilize back home.

An ordained United Methodist minister who co-authored the devotional book, *A Prayer Guide for All God's People*, Dr. Shawchuck will lead participants in conversations on how we can nourish ourselves and our ministries and live out our common covenant together. Attendees will also feast on community worship and reflection as important parts of the retreat. An interesting session will be based on the John 11 Lazarus story. Discussions will be centered around how we can be in partnership with Jesus when ministry is a stinky business!

Registration and room fees are due now. If you have paid only the \$25 registration fee, please arrange for the \$110 room and meal cost to be sent in. Checks should be made out to the Louisiana Annual Conference.

## Youth learn to make 'Christian difference' at workshop

by Rev. Dale Hensarling  
Shreveport District  
Communication Advisor

On Nov. 22, 40 Louisiana youth gave up three days of their Thanksgiving break to become better servant-leaders for Jesus Christ. The Louisiana Conference Center resounded with the voices of youth and adults—sincere tones of conviction, a few tears, and peals of raucous laughter—as they crafted together a new model for mission in Louisiana.

The first wave of volunteers for this model came as churches throughout the conference were challenged to send their most capable youth leaders for a Volunteers in Mission workshop on mission and leadership.

During this three-day beginning exercise, they learned of mission opportunities in the United States and around the world, recruiting support from pastors and congregations, the gift of similarity and difference across cultural and national lines and the centrality of issues of justice to the work of mission.

Before the event was over, these young leaders selected their own steering committee to help craft a similar event for the next wave of leadership in 2000.

"These are the ones who will lead us



Jim Bowden, director of the Shepherd Center, an ecumenical ministry for those in need in the Alexandria area, gives a tour of the facility (above). Youth from around the Conference learned about mission opportunities in the United States and abroad during a recent three-day VIM workshop.

(Below) "God's Pep Squad," Greg Spencer, Ray Meade, and Meg Stephens, get fired up for their work in mission.

Photos for this story by Larry Norman

next year. This is the beginning," Carolyn Dove, Conference youth director, said. "Because of their influence, we will have two or three times this many next year."

Bishop Dan Solomon challenged the group toward new levels of commitment to "touching lives through journeys of witness, faith life and mission. We cannot accomplish this without the power of human touch," he said.

"You've got to roll up your sleeves and put hands in the dirt of life...be open," he said.

Thuthi Niles, a former mission intern with the General Board of Global Ministries, challenged the young leaders with the simple message of a model of evangelism which is both compassionate and prophetic. A native of Sri Lanka with a mission career in the Philippines and other global venues, Niles drew participants into the Gospel by inviting them into that story as it was made real in his own life. He then helped them understand that there are more ways in which youth around the world are alike than ways in which they are different. However, he cautioned, many of those differences which remain desperately need the love of Christ made real in service to heal them.

A field trip to the Shepherd Center in Alexandria—a food, clothing, and referral center for the homeless—gave the

young participants the opportunity for a closer look at the problems being discussed in the workshop sessions.

Rev. Dale Hensarling challenged the youth to awake to new light by asking themselves a fill-in-the-blank question. "Once I thought (blank) but now I know (blank)." One young woman who obviously got the message of the Shepherd Center responded: "I used to think that 'they' (those who needed our help) were

## ON THE INSIDE . . .

- 2 Time Enough
- 2 Foundation board retreat
- 3 UMCOR Christmas Wishlist
- 4 North Shore District News

- 5 Ruston District News
- 6 Shreveport District News
- 7 La. US-2 missionary
- 8 Coming Soon...

Please see Youth, page 8.





Bishop Dan Solomon

## Being and Doing

# Time Enough



I have discovered "time enough" is more often than not a matter of "will" than of "measurement." "Do we have enough time?" is a question often best answered, "Do we have enough will?"

Isn't it remarkable how much we can accomplish in a brief span of time if we have the will to do it? Likewise, isn't it convenient and even seductive to avoid fulfilling responsibility and privilege by saying "there is simply not enough time." Such an answer sounds so rational and factual that it seems immune to argument or question.

Of course, there are those situations when "time is of the essence." More people could be rescued from a sinking ship if there were more time, even though there is remarkable effort and will. More time, in some situations, could mean building a higher barrier amidst a flood. Yet, most of us know full well the multitude of situations when time is used as "excuse" rather than opportunity.

We have "time enough" to mend broken relationships, do caring acts, make loving calls, speak encouraging words.

We have "time enough" to nurture our spiritual life, engage in thoughtful reflection or enter into disciplined study of the scriptures.

We have "time enough" to prioritize our spending, plan thoughtfully our giving and determine a disciplined pattern of saving.

We have "time enough" to cultivate friendships, enrich our understanding of life, culture, and geography and develop an appreciation for the contributions of varied peoples in varied places.

We have "time enough" to be generous! One of the tempting excuses for

some congregations as they wrestle with their balance of unpaid "apportionments—or a portion meant for others—is, "we don't have "time enough." If we have the "will," there is "time enough!"

One of the memories I have of my childhood is of my father calling on his "stewards" list in our small Methodist congregation. In those days, the apportionment year ran from June to June. Around the first of May, a few officers of the Board of Stewards would visit personally the people on their Stewards List in order to secure the funds to pay all the

apportionments in full before the pastor and lay delegate went

to Annual Conference. I don't believe any of the church officers ever believed there wasn't "time enough!"

I must say I do not believe there is not "time enough" for every congregation and every family in our congregations to do what it takes to insure our apportionments are paid in full. The issue is not time. The

issue is will!

The good news is that we are running over two (2) percentage points ahead of this time last year. That means that the goal is even more within our reach.

Ministries that bless children, help people make "turnarounds" in their life, and love persons in the name of Jesus by providing real help for real needs depend on our apportionments. These "askings" are really "privileges" and "opportunities."

There is "time enough" to be generous!

Dan E. Solomon

## Have you registered?

Ready to reshape, redirect and re-energize your ministry?

Bishop Dan Solomon is the Host Bishop for the "Congress On Evangelism: Ministry Beyond the Margins" which will be held in New Orleans Jan. 5-8, 1999.

Register now for this dynamic event at the Fairmont Hotel hosted by The Council on Evangelism, an affiliate of the General Board of Discipleship. Rev.

Jimmie Pyles, Ruston District superintendent, is a member of the National Planning Committee.

The focus this year will be on identifying, understanding and effectively reaching the "un-churched" people in our culture.

Contact the Council on Evangelism at (614) 471-0252 to get a registration form.

## Foundation hosts retreat for board

By Rob Fairly  
Director of Development  
United Methodist Foundation of La.

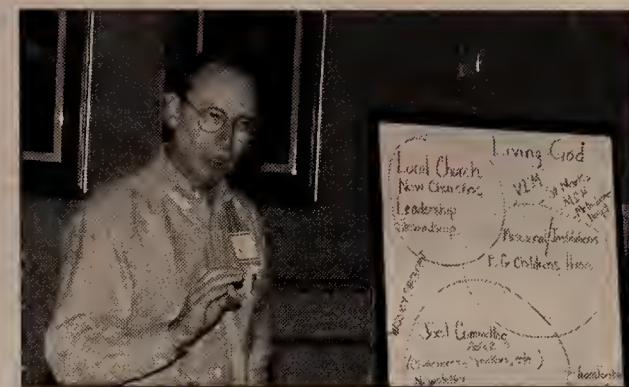
Attended by 77 of Louisiana Methodism's finest, the United Methodist Foundation's Board of Trustees retreat was held at the Louisiana Conference Center Nov. 1-2.

John Davies, president of a community foundation serving the Baton Rouge area, discussed the remarkable success of his organization as it has grown to well over \$100 million in assets. He shared his foundation's philosophy of awarding grants based on a desire to serve as a source of leadership and assistance to new projects as well as a source of funding. Grant recipients, he suggested, must demonstrate innovation and potential, but need not provide a guarantee of success.

Davies explained that if 100 percent of their projects proved successful, the feeling would be that perhaps not enough new, creative programs were selected for funding. He went on to explain what he calls "venture philanthropy," as an attempt to fund potential rather than simply funding needs.

Rob Weber, pastor of the fast-growing Grace Community UMC in Shreveport, had a similar message. He claimed his congregation's secret was a willingness to take risks, to try the unconventional in order to involve more people in the life of the church. Weber outlined several of the recent shifts that have taken place in our culture and how these changes have impacted the church. Grace Community, a new congregation just under six years old, has seen its attendance grow to

approximately 900 persons. Although the church's growth has been amazing, Weber shared that he has been most



Dr. Chris Andrews leads a session during the Foundation Board retreat.

gratified by the large number of candidates for ordained ministry that have come out of his congregation.

Four other innovative pastors each shared the story of the ministry they lead. Revs. Joe Connelly of Cornerstone UMC in New Orleans; Michi Head of McGuire UMC in West Monroe; Jerry Johnson of Vinton UMC and Greg Dike of St. Mark's Community Center, an inner-city ministry located on the edge of the New Orleans French Quarter, each shared stories of the challenges they have faced and the necessity of trusting God enough to take the risks inherent in trying new ideas.

Entertainment was provided by Bartles & James of the Ministry (alias Revs. Doug McGuire and Bob Peyton) who retold the musical tale of a Louisiana minister's walk through life.

Foundation board members, Dr. Chris Andrews and Rev. Larry Stafford, also led sessions during the retreat.

The event concluded with a worship service in the Conference Center Chapel.

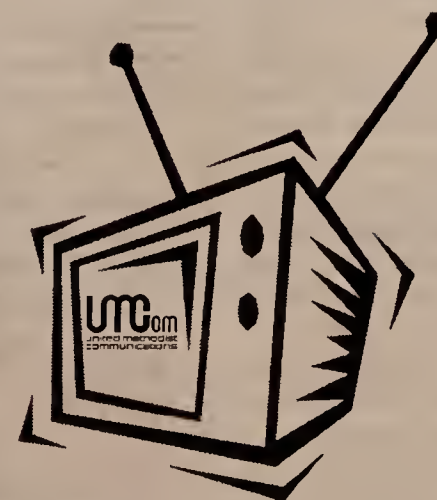
## Matching funds grants from UCom available to conferences for TV spots

United Methodist Communications is in the process of proposing a quadrennial national funds grant television campaign to begin in 2001. Approaching the new millennium, UCom is making available \$200,000 matching funds to be granted to annual conferences in 1999 for local/regional TV spots campaigns.

Annual conferences or bodies within conferences can make application for a maximum of \$25,000 in matching funds. The money is to be used exclusively for placing TV spots produced for the proposed national denominational campaign.

Directors of communications or another annual conference leader will coordinate grants in each annual conference. Applicants can choose to meet one of two deadlines for applications: January 15, 1999 or May 1, 1999. Campaigns need to take place during 1999.

Coordinating the grant program are the Conference Resourcing Team and the Public Media Division of UCom. For more information, contact the Louisiana Annual Conference Gospel Communication Office at 1-888-239-5286 or UCom's Public Media Division at 1-800-476-7766.







# *Give a gift that makes a difference* **UMCOR Christmas Wish List**

This holiday season, let's wish for a Christmas that truly honors the birth of Jesus and shows our concern for the family of God. Let's remember God's greatest gift by giving to others in Christ's name. Listed below is a "wish list" of gifts that can be given through the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Through these gifts, United Methodists can respond to Christ's command to feed the hungry, care for the sick, comfort the heart-broken and welcome the stranger in our midst.

\$ 1.00 - Serve a child one hot meal a day (UMCOR #418790-2)

\$ 1.00 - Ten seedlings will be planted to reforest a hillside or field laid waste by erosion.  
(UMCOR #154725-1)

\$ 5.00 - Immunize a child against tuberculosis, measles, polio, tetanus and other diseases (UMCOR #982400-7)

\$10.00 - Provide blankets, food and water for a victim of disaster in the United States (UMCOR #901670-1)

\$10.00 - Tents, water purification tablets and blankets comfort an international victim of disaster. (UMCOR #982450-8)

\$15.00 - Provide a camping experience for a mentally and physically challenged refugee child. (UMCOR #629795)

\$15.00 - Teach a woman to read and write (UMCOR #229500-8)

\$20.00 - Help a refugee return home or find safety in a new one.  
(UMCOR #982540)

\$25.00 - Support hunger projects in the United States and throughout the world. (UMCOR #982920-4)

\$30.00 - Help ship material resources (like blankets, medical supplies, hygiene articles) where they are needed.  
(UMCOR #982730-7)

\$35.00 - Join Bread for the World as a family and become advocates for policies that fight hunger and poverty.  
(UMCOR #982325-3)

*One hundred percent of your gift goes to the program you choose. These alternative gifts can be sent through your local church or annual conference. Please include the program's code number on the check and attached letter.*

All text reprinted from "Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?" Alternatives for Simple Living





## News from the North Shore



124 Lisa Lane  
Mandeville, LA 70448  
(504) 626-0918

**District Superintendent**  
Dr. Grayson Watson

**Communication Advisor**  
Rev. Wanda Cosentino

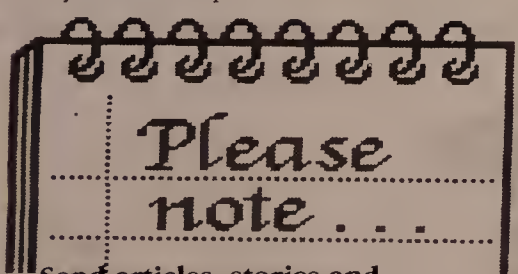
## DISCIPLE Bible Study meant for small churches

by Wanda Cosentino

My husband and I serve five churches with an average attendance of around fifty or less each. For several years we have wanted to offer DISCIPLE Bible Study, but we were doubtful that we could get enough people committed to the thirty-four week course. We went ahead with the plan to start a DISCIPLE I study this fall.

Our doubt has been put to rest because we now have fourteen committed 'disciples' from our churches. We have an almost even amount of men and women, ranging in age from 30 to 80, and our group comes from many different walks of life. This is the liveliest Bible study group we have ever been involved with and we look forward to many future studies and ministries coming from this group.

Who says effective DISCIPLE Bible Study can't take place in small churches?



Send articles, stories and  
pictures to:

Rev. Wanda Cosentino  
P.O. Box 563  
Greensburg, LA 70441  
Questions? Call (225) 222-3302.

## District churches hold revivals

By Wanda Cosentino  
District Communication Advisor

*It is always good to take a few days out of our regular routine to focus more fully on God's call for our lives. That is why Revival is needed and can be effective. Let us all pray together, Lord, revive our churches, revive our land, revive our hearts. Amen.*

**Greensburg UMC** held its revival Oct. 16-17. Rev. Steve Vanlandingham of Stockton, Ala., was the guest preacher. Steve also has a wonderful singing voice which he shared. Tommy Vaughn, a friend of Steve's and a very talented trumpet player, also shared his music with us. Everyone enjoyed the great time of praise, worship and fellowship. Both nights were well attended by people from many area churches.

Ponchatoula area churches, Wesley Chapel UMC and Lee's Landing UMC had joint revival services which began on Oct. 25 and continued through Oct. 28. The guest preacher was Rev. Roger Templeton, associate pastor of University UMC in Baton Rouge. Rev. Debbie Peplow and Rev. Carol Richardson, pastors of the two churches, said that Roger delivered a spell-binding message from the Book of Acts.

Sunday night the congregation enjoyed a performance by the Gospel Choir from Broadmoor UMC in Baton Rouge. Of course, in the Methodist tradition, after the closing message Wednesday night, refreshments were served.

**James Chapel UMC** in Holden had a youth revival Friday and Saturday, November 6-7.

Pastor Carol Richardson says the youth enjoyed the ministry of Andy Hughes and company from Livingston and also the music of the "Mustard Seed."

Saturday, the youth were entertained by the clown ministry of Tracy Marquette from Word of Life in Donaldsonville. Rev. Emile Tosso from Loranger-Coopers Chapel entertained the youth with Christian rap to old time favorites like "Amazing Grace."

Rev. Frances Hooten, associate pastor at St. Timothy-on-the-North Shore UMC



**Rev. Roger Templeton, associate pastor at University UMC, Baton Rouge, delivers a message from Acts during a joint revival service of Wesley Chapel and Lee's Landing UMCs.**

in Mandeville, gave a message and Adam McCain of Bethany World Prayer Center in Baker delivered the closing message on Sampson.

**Coopers Chapel UMC** held a revival Nov. 15-17. Rev. Robert Deich, Rev.



**Tracy Marquette and another member of the clown ministry from Word of Life in Donaldsonville entertained the youth during a recent revival at James Chapel UMC in Holden.**

Wanda Cosentino and Rev. Charles Cosentino were the guest preachers. Rev. Emile Tosso also participated in each night's service and shared some of his own musical talent. There were many people from different area churches in attendance. Some of them shared their musical talents.

It was a pleasure to be in the House of the Lord with so many good folks. Revival at Coopers Chapel was a special time of blessing for everyone who attended.

## Bishop engages laity in Q&A

Bishop Dan Solomon invited the laity of the North shore District for a time of conversation and questions Oct. 12, at First UMC, Hammond. The meeting was well-attended by both laity and clergy.

In the bishop's talk, he asked if members of the church are grounded in the foundational truths of John Wesley. He said that we must be "rooted" in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and we need to be morally and spiritually active. He said we must be a thinking, praying and visionary church committed to doing what Jesus did and "taking it to the streets."

He said that we must be "fruited" or we must bear fruit in our walk. Our fruit must be identifiable and demonstrable, he said. Using a cultural slang, he explained that in the church of "What's Happening," professions of faith should be the number one mission of congregations of the church of Jesus Christ.

"When a church is the mission it dies; when the church does mission, it comes alive," Solomon said.

He added that there are seven steps to making a church be the church of today. The steps are Inviting, Teaching, Giving, Wondering, Grouping, Reaching and Caring. And we must have "joy" in our churches. We must have a deep, abiding sense in our lives for the wonderful, forgiving grace of God.

"The greatest weapon in all the world," he said, "is a human soul on fire for God."

## A special Christmas message ...

Of all of the seasons of the church, Advent and Christmas always hold a special meaning for me. The times with family, sharing of food, fun and fellowship, the special services celebrating the anticipation of Christ's coming, all hold a deep satisfying feeling for me as a Christian. To think that God loved the world so much that He came to this tiny planet to live and teach and die for our sins is more than I can understand.

At this time of year the truth comes home to me so fully. The season of Advent is not only the anticipation of the coming of the Christmas season, it is also the time when we think about the second coming of Christ and all the mystery surrounding that future event. So, may I say that before we get carried away with too many hours and too many dollars being spent in the mall, trying to find that perfect gift, we need to appreciate the greatest gift ever given, the gift of God's only son.

May you and yours have a blessed and holy Advent and Christmas.

Grace and peace,  
**Wanda Cosentino**



## Ruston District UMW hold 25th annual fall meeting

by Maxie Garrett  
President,  
Ruston District UMW

United Methodist Women of the Ruston District held their 25th Annual Fall Meeting Oct. 4 at Chatham UMC. The theme for the year is "Laborers Into His Harvest".

Maxie Garrett, Ruston District UMW president, convened the meeting with the challenge that all UMW members are laborers for the Lord. Rev. Jimmie D. Pyles, Ruston District superintendent, gave the invocation. Brenda Kirste, Chatham UMW president, welcomed the sixty-five members and guests.

The group was entertained and inspired with a mini-drama, "A Visit with Mary and Martha" presented by Deana Payne and Ronnie Spillers. The audience was taken back in time to the days of Jesus as the two biblical women wove in and out on the stage telling their respective stories.

The music was provided by Freida Peel and the song leader was Lisa Folden. The members participated in a



Deana Payne and Ronnie Spillers entertain the gathering with the mini-drama, "A Visit with Mary and Martha."

Litany written by Glenver Rowland. The Mission Candle was lighted by Jean Rockhold and a prayer of remembrance for the deceased UMW members was given by Carole Fowler. Maxie Garrett presented the President's report. She complimented the Ruston District members for the wonderful job they did in

hosting the very successful Louisiana Conference UMW Annual Meeting at Trinity UMC in Ruston Sept. 18-19. Also, she gave a brief review of the UMW work in the Ruston District for 1998. District secretary, Kitty Defreese, read the minutes from the October 1997 Annual Meeting; Page Harrison gave the treasurer's report and presented the 1999 budget; Adona Cain, chairman of committee on nominations, presented the list of nominees for the district officers.

Recognitions of chapters who had completed certain requirements and excelled in other ways were presented. Inda Mae Taylor was honored as The Woman in

Mission for her outstanding work in UMW. Retiring officers were honored with special recognition pins and certificates for their years of service. The officers for 1999 were installed by Elouise Sanders, conference president. The benediction was offered by Rev. Samuel Emanuel, pastor of Chatham UMC.

Mrs. Inda Mae Taylor, wife of the late Rev. A.G. Taylor and member of Gibsland UMC, was named "Woman of the Year" by Ruston District United Methodist Women. Taylor, at left, is pictured with Gibsland/Oak Grove UMW President Claudia Shaffer.



## Church reaches out with tutoring, fellowship

Salem UMC reaches out to children in its community through a Wednesday night fellowship and tutoring program.

The program came into being about six years ago when Chuck and Janet Wells recognized the need for a ministry geared to the needs of children. They instituted the program with one child--their own--and one computer.

Today, over twenty youth show up on Wednesday nights to eat, enjoy fellowship, worship the Lord and then get down to work.

Four computers equipped with a wealth of educational software that Janet has "picked up here and there" have been added through generous contribu-



Janet Wells, a member of Salem UMC, helps a student with his work during the church's Wednesday night tutoring and fellowship program.

tions.

"Children are hungry...for acceptance where they are. They are responsive to hearing about God when they feel accepted," Chuck said.

Many of the youth who attend Wednesday nights have begun to come to church at Salem on Sunday morning. Some have brought their families to church.

Janet has a philosophy that drives the success of the program. "You MUST love kids...you can't be afraid of them or their reputations," she said. Both Chuck and Janet feel that the rewards of this ministry far exceed the costs any time or effort they put into it.

## Send us your news!

We need your church news and pictures! Please send them to:

Carol Stewart  
2013 Highway 794  
Gibsland, LA 71028  
E-mail: [stew@iamerica.net](mailto:stew@iamerica.net)  
(318) 843-6329



Rev. Johnie Adkins, pastor of Oak Grove UMC, Shirley Payne, District Superintendent Rev. Jimmie Pyles and Angela Payne celebrate the addition of a larger fellowship hall at a dedication service in the new room held Nov. 1.

RUSTON DISTRICT NEWS

901 S. Vienna  
Ruston, LA 71270  
(318) 255-2690

**District Superintendent**  
Rev. Jimmie D. Pyles

**Communication Advisor**  
Carol Stewart





# Shreveport District News

2911 Centenary Boulevard  
P.O. Box 41188  
Shreveport, LA 71134  
(318) 869-4568

**Dr. Bobby Potter**  
District Superintendent

**Rev. Dale Hensarling**  
District Communication Advisor

## District UMW hold annual meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Shreveport District United Methodist Women was a great success Oct. 11 at First UMC, Shreveport.

The keynote address was delivered by UMW Conference President Elouise Sanders. Norma Winegart was named the Shreveport District's United Methodist Woman of the Year.

A patchwork quilt made by UMW units in the Shreveport District was displayed at the meeting. Each UMW unit designed and created a quilt square which depicted different portions of the UMW journey.

The color scheme of black, white and gray—with some red accents—was creatively adapted to each portion of the story. Those UMW units who created squares for the quilt will have the opportunity to have the quilt on display in their church for a period of time during the coming year.

## Let us tell your story...

If you have a story to tell about your church or your members, please contact the Shreveport District communication advisor, Rev. Dale Hensarling at (318) 949-0430. You may also contact the Shreveport District Office at (318) 869-4568. Please mail information to:

**Rev. Dale Hensarling**  
4600 Highway 80 East  
Haughton, LA 71037

# The Gifts are for everyone...

by Rev. Dale Hensarling  
District Communication Advisor

It's tempting to make Advent and Christmas a cozy, little "family" gathering in our congregations, without remembering that all of the family isn't "home" yet. What better opportunity to offer the invitation to those who haven't found a faith family to come and join us for our special celebrations?

In what is sometimes referred to as "Event Evangelism," we use the special seasons and celebrations of the church year and the life-cycles of congregations to provide non-threatening entry points for persons unsure of their and our readiness to welcome them into our congregations.

These events are the times when people can come in without fear of being singled out or "targeted" and can join us in some of our finer moments. They can see us at our best, join us when we are having fun, and get to know us with no fear or need to judge or be judged.

Who, at the outset of any potential relationship, wants to be seen at only our most mundane side? There is wisdom to the adage of "putting the best foot forward."

Advent and Christmas, as well as Lent and Easter, give us the opportunity to honor people by inviting them to be with us at our most tender, intimate, and enjoyable moments. Pastors, ministry staff, public information personnel, and congregational members must be aware of the positive influence of an invitation to join us for such a special celebration.

At this time, personal letters, telephone calls, print and electronic media advertising are taken more seriously and appreciatively than at any other time of

the year. Congregations which are serious about welcoming people into the family of Christ will not ignore this opportunity to share the Gift.

Christmas celebrations around the district are listed below.



**Asbury UMC**, 3200 Airline Dr., Bossier City. Tel. (318) 746-5349

Dec. 20 - 8:30 & 10:45 am - Christmas Cantata Eve 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. Communion

Dec. 20 - 5 p.m. Church Night Dinner and Nativity Tableau

**Broadmoor UMC**, 3715 Youree Drive, Shreveport. Tel. (318) 861-0586

Dec. 20 - 11 a.m. "A Celebration of Christmas" Celebration Singers & Chancel Choir  
Christmas Eve Services at 5 p.m., 7 p.m., and 11 p.m.

**Fellowship UMC**, 4750 Barksdale

Bld., Bossier City. Tel. (318) 746-4422  
Christmas Eve Services - 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m. - Communion

**First UMC**, Bossier City - 201 John Wesley Blvd., Bossier City. - Tel. (318) 742-3823

Dec. 16 Candles & Carols Dinner Fellowship Hall

Christmas Eve Services at 5:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**First UMC**, Shreveport - Texas & Common St., Shreveport. Tel. (318) 424-7771

Dec. 17&18 - 7:30 pm - Shreveport Symphony & First UMC Chancel Choir - "The Messiah" in the Sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. (Tickets required, please call.)

Christmas Eve Services at 5:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**Love Chapel UMC**, 4300 Highway 80-E., Shreveport. (3 mi. East of I-220) Tel. (318) 949-0430

Dec. 20 - 7:00 p.m. - Adult Choir  
Dec. 24 - 6:30 p.m. - Candlelight Communion

**Mangum UMC**, 3939 Pines Road, Shreveport. Tel. (318) 636-7376

Dec. 20 - 6:00 p.m. - Handbell Choir Concert

Dec. 24 - 6:00 p.m. - Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion

**Noel UMC**, 520 Herndon, Shreveport. Tel. (318) 221-5207

Christmas Eve "Candles, Carols, and Communion" 5:30 p.m.

**Summer Grove UMC** - 9119 Dean Rd., Tel. (318) 686-2514

Dec. 19 - Party for residents of McAdoo Hotel  
Christmas Eve Services - 6 p.m. & 11:15 p.m.



## District youth attend mission workshop

Several youth from the Shreveport District participated in the "Youth Leaders: Making A Christian Difference" workshop, November 22-25, at the Conference Center in Woodworth. Pictured (L to R) are: Christopher Lehr, Bayou Scie UMC; Renee Nolan, First UMC Many; Alicia Boudreaux, First UMC Many; Matt Jacobs, First UMC Bossier; Heather Melton, First UMC Mansfield; Cammie Varner, First UMC Mansfield; Daniel Carr, Grace Community UMC Shreveport; Meg Stephens, First UMC, Bossier; Lindsey Garner, Grace Community UMC Shreveport.



Memorable

# MENTIONINGS

## Seminaries receive \$ to find new leaders

Seven United Methodist-related seminaries received approximately \$1.5 million each to find and develop new generations of pastors and church leaders.

The seminaries were among 58 theological schools receiving \$55 million in grants from the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment, a foundation that supports causes of religion, education and community development.

The United Methodist theological schools receiving grants are Boston University School of Theology, Boston, Mass.; Candler School of Theology, Atlanta; Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, Calif.; Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Ill.; Perkins School of Theology, Dallas; Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Mo.; and Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington. There are 13 United Methodist-related schools of theology in the United States.

The grants will support two different theological school programs—one to help seminaries attract leaders for local congregations and the other to help them interest high school students in pursuing careers as pastors.

According to Craig Dykstra, vice president for religion at Lilly, the aim in providing the two grant programs is to give major support to those theological schools that can successfully call, train and support new leaders for Christian congregations.

"For seven out of our 13 schools to be among the recipients is a powerful statement about the programs our schools are offerings and symbolizes their important role in the world of theological education," said the Rev. John Harnish, staff executive in the section of elders and local pastors at the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry. "These grants will go a long way in empowering new initiatives in our schools in preparing a new generation of Christian leaders."

## Black church pastors to gather in Atlanta for convocation

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** The critical needs and solutions for growth in the black church will be explored when pastors of African-American United Methodist churches gather in Atlanta Jan. 4-6 for a national convocation.

"Rekindle the gift of God that is within you" is the theme for the first-time event expected to attract at least 250 persons to the Renaissance Atlanta Hotel-Concourse for learning, development, discovery and dialogue.

The convocation is designed to help congregational leaders develop strategies for participating in a churchwide emphasis aimed at strengthening the more than 2,500 African-American United Methodist churches in the United States.

Created by the United Methodist Church's 1996 General Conference, "Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century" is a \$1.3 million initiative that provides opportunities to link growing, vital congregations with those desiring to become more vital.

The convocation, sponsored by the United Methodist Board of Discipleship, will empower the pastors to see themselves as worshippers, stewards, educators, administrators, leaders and preachers.

The convocation will be a time to inform and inspire pastors who are "leading us in the trenches of ministry," according to the Rev. Vance P. Ross, pastor of the multi-ethnic First United Methodist Church, Hayattsville, Md., and a former director of congregational revitalization for the Board of Discipleship. "God's growth and development of powerful churches will not begin in committees but in the spiritual leaders who see his vision. We pray that this time together will make that happen."

## Houston couple honored for evangelism

A Houston clergy couple—Rudy and Juanita C. Rasmus—have been honored for their work as evangelists by the Foundation for Evangelism, an organization affiliated with the United Methodist Board of Discipleship.

The annual Distinguished Evangelist Award for 1998 was presented to the Rasmuses early in November at Lake Junaluska, N.C., where the foundation has offices.

Bishop Ernest Fitzgerald, president of the foundation, praised the work of the Rasmuses. "Their remarkable ministry reminds the entire church of what can happen when persons are totally dedicated to proclaiming the Good News," he said.

When the Rasmuses were appointed co-pastors of St. Johns Church in 1992, the congregation had nine members. Today it has more than 3000 and has one of the most diverse congregations in the United States.

The church's Bread of Life Homeless Project serves more than 6,000 meals each month, provides emergency clothing through its Clothes Closet, and offers job training opportunities. The congregation also operates the DayBreak facility which provides showers, laundry, medical and HIV services to the homeless in downtown Houston.

The Rasmuses have been featured speakers at Louisiana Conference events.

(The above stories are from United Methodist News Service.)

# La. US-2 teaches language in mission

by Joshua Lewis  
Contributing writer

Matthew Cox found strength in a weakness for his recent assignment as a US-2 missionary appointed by the General Board of Global Ministries.

His job is teaching English to refugees and immigrants at a community center in Tacoma, Wash. Only, he has had difficulty speaking it for most of his life.

"You see, I grew up with a mild communication disorder, and because of my slow speech, it's easy for English language students to understand me. So I get along extremely well with international people," he said.

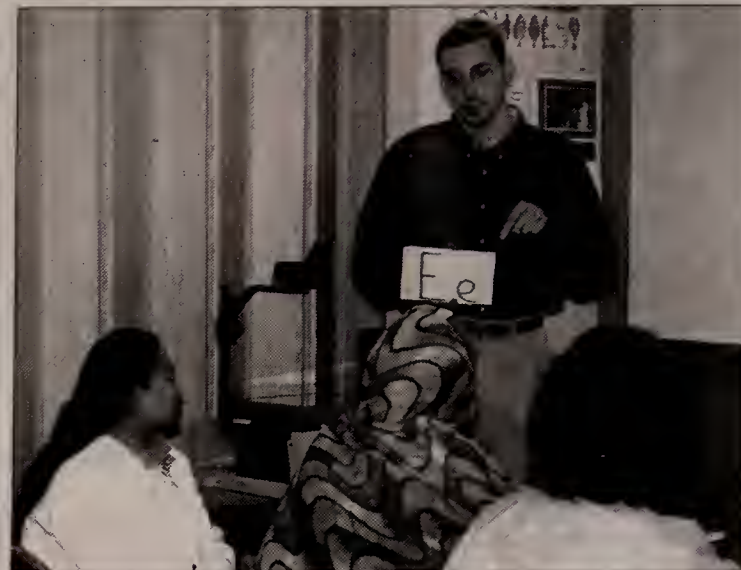
Cox discovered the connection in high school, where international students were more accepting of his disorder, he said.

"I used to hang out with international students because they were less judgmental of me than the other students," he said.

Cox also suffered organizational difficulties with language and is borderline dyslexic, he said.

"So I grew up with a language-related learning disability."

In college, Cox underwent communi-



**Matthew Cox, a member of Noel UMC, Shreveport, gives a lesson to English language students at the Tacoma Community House. Cox began his two-year service as a US-2 missionary this fall.**

cations therapy and minored in Speech to help himself improve.

Cox's careful, precise speech, coupled with his own struggle to master language growing up, enables him to better teach the Vietnamese, Russians and others he works with at the Tacoma Community House.

"I have a very good understanding of how people acquire language," he said.

The US-2 program administered by the GBGM places missionaries within the United States for two years.

The program is like the Peace Corps, only in the U.S., Cox said.

After his service, Cox would like to explore careers in the ministry, teaching and social work, he said.

# GBGM plans Mitch volunteer assistance

By United Methodist News Service

Working with church partners in Honduras and Nicaragua, the General Board of Global Ministries is making plans for volunteer assistance to Hurricane Mitch survivors.

Two board executives—F. Lloyd Rollins, assistant general secretary for emergency response, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Robert Walton, assistant general secretary for mission volunteers—traveled to Central America the week after Thanksgiving.

The pair met with representatives of the Commission for Christian Development (CCD) in Honduras and the Council of Evangelical Churches (CEPAD) in Nicaragua. Walton said a coordination of efforts is needed so volunteers can be used effectively to help rebuild both countries. "We don't want volunteers to be a burden," he added.

Names of volunteers are being collected through the board's volunteer phone line at (800) 918-3000. Once a plan is in place, the scheduling of teams and individual placements will begin. Volunteers also will be placed in Puerto Rico and

the Dominican Republic, countries badly damaged by Hurricane Georges.

As of Nov. 20, UMCOR had distributed \$30,000 in initial grants to ecumenical partners in Nicaragua and Honduras. It also had participated in a shipload of relief items from Houston and sponsored a Nov. 9 airlift of 38,000 pounds of relief goods to Nicaragua and a separate container shipment there to be distributed through the Brother's Brother Foundation.

UMCOR also is coordinating efforts with Church World Service (CWS), the relief agency of the National Council of Churches. CWS has airlifted and shipped relief supplies to Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala. It is sending two U.S. volunteer medical teams to Honduras. The first team left Nov. 24 and the second will leave Nov. 30. CWS also will assist in travel costs for a 10-doctor team from Cuba, sent by the Cuban Council of Churches.

Stop Hunger Now, led by the Rev. Ray Buchanan, a United Methodist pastor, has been involved in Hurricane Mitch relief assistance with UMCOR and with other groups.



# AROUND THE CONFERENCE NEWS

## Nolley Memorial UMC celebrates Children's Sabbath with daisies

by Eloise Cox

Nolley Memorial UMC

Nolley Memorial UMC, Jena, recently celebrated its Children's Sabbath with the 1998 theme, "Gifted and Called to Raise Up Our Children."

Incorporating Peggy Johns' sermon topic, "Whose Children Are They?" children were a vital part of the 11 a.m. worship service, participating as greeters and ushers.

A child's solo served as the morning's introit, as the Children's Choir performed and then joined with the Chancel Choir in very special music.

Some 65 daisies, complete with balloons, adorned the worship area in honor of the congregation's "special children and youth." What glorious arrangements these were to honor our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and our children.

The Children's Sabbath celebration affirmed for the congregation that it is indeed our calling to raise up our children—all children—to strengthen families, to work for justice and to walk faithfully with our God.

### Louisiana Conference Edition of the United Methodist Review

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

#### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Dr. Rena Yocom, Area Director,

Gospel Communications

Bobbie Armstrong, Editor

Joshua Lewis, Contributing Writer

Dr. Alonzo Campbell

Subscriptions: \$12.50 per year

(Please make checks payable to Louisiana Annual Conference.)

Send subscriptions, news and  
information to:

Editor

527 North Boulevard

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

1 (888) 239-5286

(225)346-1646, (225) 383-2652 fax

Please do not fax articles; send original  
typed copy—not all caps. Thanks!

(NEW) e-mail: editor@premier.net

#### On the Web

You can find the Louisiana Annual  
Conference on the Internet athttp://www.gbgn-umc.org/  
louisiana-conference/

#### DEADLINE FOR:

January 8–December 14

January 22–January 11

## We are looking for YOU!!!

Have you been on a mission trip???

Then we invite you to share your "Story on Mission" at the **Volunteers in Mission Celebration '99**. Plan on participating by setting up a display on your trip. (Call the Conference VIM office at (225) 346-1646 or (888) 239-5286 for a Display Form.)

You have not been on a mission trip?

Then you have to come see what all the excitement's about!!!

## LA. VIM CELEBRATION '99

Sunday, February 28, 1999

4-7 p.m., Louisiana Conference Center, Woodworth

Mark your calendars and keep your eyes peeled for more information.

### Youth, continued from front page.

different from us. Now I know that they aren't. We are the same. Some of us just have more than others."

Richard Bushnell, principal of the Akin Optional School in Alexandria led the young people through an engaging exercise in which they expanded their awareness of and proficiency in the components of courageous choices and competent leadership.

Rev. Larry Norman, conference director of Volunteers In Mission, who with Dove, crafted the model for the event said, "These kids know what it is to be in mission. They haven't let anyone discourage them yet. I think that they can teach us, too. They will figure out that the things they learn here will have a

broader application than just for mission trips."

The comprehensive design of Dove and Norman was executed by a team of committed professionals. Connie Breaux-Diallo, Diane Howe, Scott Bullock, Richard Bushnell, Tim Hebert, Dale Hensarling, and Leigh Ann Boston challenged and equipped a new generation of mission-minded leaders for the Louisiana Annual Conference which will only be improved by the addition of input and energy from the Youth Steering Committee for 2000.

As Bishop Solomon said of the power of touch: "It's powerful because it's practical. It works!"



Thuthi Niles, left, a former mission intern with the General Board of Global Ministries, enjoys fellowship with Bishop Dan Solomon at the VIM youth mission workshop at the Conference Center in Woodworth.

## Ministers' Week set for July '99

Mark your calendars now. Ministers' Week 1999 is set for July 26-29 at the Conference Center in Woodworth.

Guest speaker for the event will be Dr. Bill Mallard, professor at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga.

Ministers' Week is open to all clergy and to the lay leadership of local churches throughout the Louisiana Annual Conference. For more information, contact Rev. Flint E. Shea at First UMC, Baton Rouge, (225) 383-4777.

## Coming soon

The registration deadline for the **Conference Youth Choir Tour** has been extended to Jan. 26.

Youth in grades 9-12 are eligible to participate in the tour of the southeast United States. Cost for the tour is \$150 per person. Adult chaperones are needed as well.

Members of churches without youth choirs are also welcome to participate.

A deposit of \$50 should accompany registration, with checks made payable to the Louisiana Annual Conference.

The tour is co-sponsored by the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts and the Conference Council on Youth Ministry.

For more information, contact Choir Director Lee Cooke at (318) 984-4211; e-mail: leaumc@eatel.net, or Youth Director Carolyn Dove at (225) 346-1646 or (888) 239-5286; e-mail: cadove2@premier.net.

The **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)** will host a **satellite teleconference** Feb. 24, 1999.

The purpose of the teleconference is to share the mission and story of UMCOR and to celebrate the role that One Great Hour of Sharing has played in that mission for 50 years.

A call-in period will allow participants to interact with panel members discussing UMCOR's accomplishments and information on One Great Hour of Sharing.

A satellite teleconference is a conference or seminar produced at one site and transmitted and linked by satellite to multiple locations across the country.

To participate, church members must organize a downlink site equipped with a satellite dish that can pick up and receive the signal.

To register or to receive more information, contact Yadira Sarmiento at (212) 870-3814; e-mail umcor@gbgm-umc.org.

## CONFERENCE

### January

- 4-5 SCJ Church Growth and Development, New Orleans
- 5-8 Congress on Evangelism, New Orleans
- 8-9 The Academy for Spiritual Leadership, Conference Center
- 11-15 Perkins School of Youth Ministry
- 12-14 District Missioners, Baton Rouge
- 13-14 Cabinet Meeting, Baton Rouge
- 15-16 VIM Leader Training, Conference Center
- 15-17 Happening #13, Conference Center
- 25-27 Spiritual Renewal Retreat (for appointed) Conference Center



# Louisiana

## CONFERENCE edition

Mail news, photos/subscriptions to  
 Louisiana United Methodist Edition  
 527 North Boulevard  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
 225.346.1646  
 /225.383.2652 fax

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

018000

Send PS Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

Vol. 16 No. 1 ■ December 25, 1998



## Holiday programs at Mission Center offer joy, love

The children at the United Methodist Mission Center, a Louisiana Conference-related institution located in Baton Rouge, celebrated a little before Christmas this year at a special service held Dec. 16.

The children, some of whose faces brighten this page, attend day care at the YWCA Istrouma Teen Learning Center, a program designed to help teen parents--children themselves--learn how to raise their children while finishing high school.

The Mission Center houses the program and provides for special needs, such as the Christmas service, said Director Genny Mandujano.

"We have Santa, and he hands out toys to the children. They really enjoy it, because for a lot of them it's the only opportunity for their children to see Santa Claus," she said.

The Mission Center conducts several other holiday giving programs in

addition to its year-round food pantry and children's clothes closet. It also provides toys and teddy bears for children in the broader community.

But the teddy bears are for adults as well--in fact, Mandujano got the idea for the teddy bear collections a couple of years ago when a woman picking out toys for her children asked if she might keep one of the stuffed animals for herself.

"It's a way of nurturing the adults, because so many of them are not hugged. Today, when I was giving them out, I would tell them there was a large bear for them, that we would give them small ones for the children. But I said, 'If you need a hug, you can get it from this bear and he will hug you back.'"

This year, 300 teddy bears were collected from Jefferson UMC, First UMC, Broadmoor UMC, Ingleside UMC and St. Andrews UMC, all in Baton Rouge,

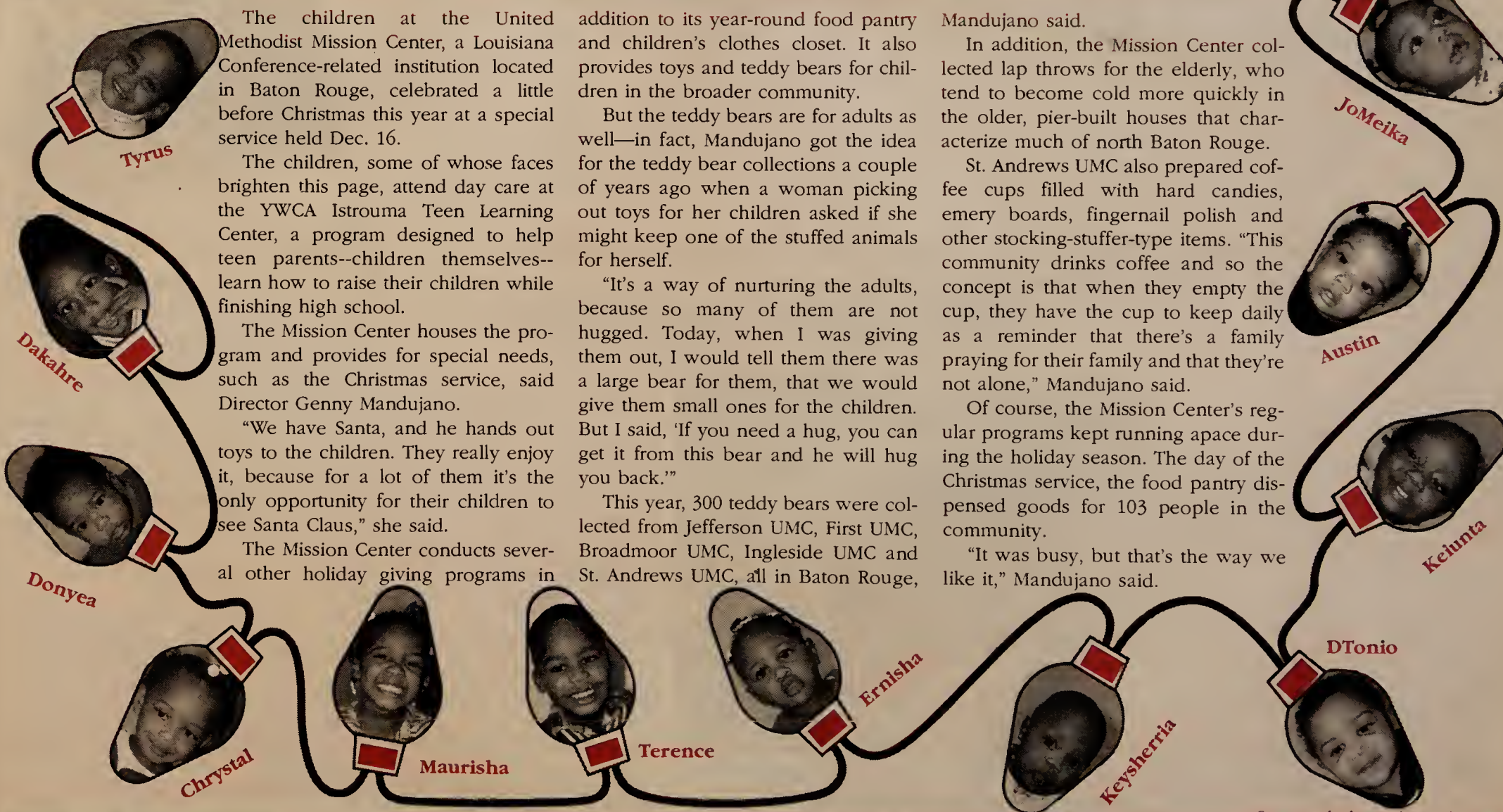
Mandujano said.

In addition, the Mission Center collected lap throws for the elderly, who tend to become cold more quickly in the older, pier-built houses that characterize much of north Baton Rouge.

St. Andrews UMC also prepared coffee cups filled with hard candies, emery boards, fingernail polish and other stocking-stuffer-type items. "This community drinks coffee and so the concept is that when they empty the cup, they have the cup to keep daily as a reminder that there's a family praying for their family and that they're not alone," Mandujano said.

Of course, the Mission Center's regular programs kept running apace during the holiday season. The day of the Christmas service, the food pantry dispensed goods for 103 people in the community.

"It was busy, but that's the way we like it," Mandujano said.



Story and photos by Josh Lewis





At  
just the right time  
In just the right way  
God did just the right thing  
So that the world  
Could live just the right way.

*May Christmas claim you with  
just the right hope.*

*Joy and Dan  
Solomon*

## SCJ institutions offer Seasons Greetings

### Lydia Patterson Institute

*Feliz Navidad!* The students, faculty, staff and administration wish God's blessings on all our United Methodist friends during this Holiday Season.

Our warmest appreciation for the love and support sent our way in 1998 and may the peace of God reign in your homes in 1999.

*Dr. Socorro Brito de Ananda, President*

### Mount Sequoyah

As we come to the end of this, our 75th anniversary year, we are thankful and pleased to have served our constituency through traditional and contemporary programs.

Please keep us in your hearts and prayers and may God's richest blessings be yours this Christmas Season!

*Scott Smith, Chairman -- Dr. Charles Wallace, President*

## Retreat looks to share 'Fire in Coventry'

Calling all appointed ministers. Retreat time is upon us! Check your calendars for Jan. 25-27 and make travel arrangements to the Conference Center.

If you want to eat lunch at the Conference Center on Monday, Jan. 25, you must call the Conference Center and make your own reservation for that meal. All the other meals are reserved already in your name if you are a registered conference participant.

Registration will begin at 11 o'clock the morning of the 25th. Opening session is at 2 p.m.

A wonderful booklet, "Fire in Coventry," will be part of the shared experiences at the retreat. This very short reading describes the spiritual renewal which swept churches in Great Britain as a result of parishes participating in small, covenant groups. During the retreat, participants may participate in covenant groups while trying to discover similar processes to precipitate revival in our local churches.

The booklet will be sent to registrants in early January so it can be read prior to the retreat.

For more information contact Rev. Judy Shema at (504) 866-8681.



## Connected Through 'A Portion Meant' for Others I am what I respond to

by Carl E. Rhoads  
Executive Director,  
Administrative Services

Recently I discovered an old African proverb which states, "I am not what you call me; I am what I respond to." One application of this proverb is to suggest that no one can make me feel inferior without my consent.

The more I thought about this proverb, the more applications I discovered. For example, why is it that some people see exciting beauty in the world and others find it marred, dull and ugly? Why is it that some people see the best in persons while others come to expect the worst? Why have some people found happiness and the laughter of life while



**Dr. Carl Rhoades (right front) receives communion during Annual Conference 1998.**

others are down-in-the-mouth, miserable or gloomy? Why are some people positive, forward looking and outgoing while others are negative, bitter and withdrawn? Why are some people interested only in themselves while others spend their days in sacrificial commitment and caring for others?

The answer to these questions, I believe, is captured by this African proverb. We determine how we respond to life. We decide whether that which happens to us is a blessing or a curse, a problem or an opportunity, a threat or a

promise. We cannot always determine what experiences we will have, but we can always choose to respond to them.

How has your church chosen to respond to life? The twenty ministries which comprise the corporate work of the 555 churches of The Louisiana Conference is an important measure of our response to the needs of children, youth and adults in Louisiana, the United States and the world. Through your faithful response, missionaries are sent, clergy and laity are trained and educational enterprises are supported.

Daily, United Methodists of Louisiana are responding in positive ways to worthwhile ministries. Thanks be to God for your faithful response.



# MENTIONINGS

## Conference on Evangelism: Motivating laity

Wondering how to motivate lay leaders in your church? Rev. Jessica Moffitt, senior pastor at First UMC, Bixby, Okla., will share her successful model for lay leader mobilization as the featured speaker at the Tuesday night worship service at the Congress on Evangelism in New Orleans Jan. 5-8.

Moffitt says the model she will be discussing is a simple, practical means of setting up 29 ministries based on how lay leaders are gifted and motivated. It was successfully implemented at First UMC, Tulsa, where the lay leadership soared from 30 to 1,500 in a congregation of 8,000.

The event at the Fairmont Hotel is sponsored by The UMC Council on Evangelism, an affiliate of the General Board of Discipleship. Bishop Dan Solomon is the host bishop and Rev. Jimmie Pyles, Ruston District superintendent is on the National Planning Committee. Call (614) 471-0252 for registration details.

## Confirmation Day with the Bishop

Attention, conference youth! Prepare for a day of a lifetime! Confirmation Day with the Bishop will be held Saturday, April 24, 1999 at the Conference Center. You won't want to miss this! Watch for details in upcoming issues of the *LUM Review*.

## School of Youth Ministry

DALLAS (SMU)—Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology will conduct its 11th annual Perkins School of Youth Ministry for beginning and experienced youth ministers. The event Jan. 11-15 will provide leadership training to those who work with young people in large and small churches in both urban and rural areas.

The five-day program, which will be held at Custer Road UMC in Plano, will include more than 80 core, elective and advanced courses. The program is designed for those who can only attend the workshop for one day as well as for those who can take advantage of the complete curriculum.

This year's program also will include a performance at 7 p.m. Jan. 11 by musician and music therapist Ken Medena. Blind from birth, Medena has been writing and performing his own songs since 1970, when he began composing original material for his work as a music therapist in a psychiatric hospital.

Tickets to the Medena concert, which is open to the public, are \$8 when purchased in advance and \$10 at the door. It will be held at St. Andrews UMC at 1401 Mira Vista Blvd. in Plano. Ticket information is available from Perkins School of Theology by calling (214) 768-3515 or toll free 1 (888) THEOLOG, ext. 4.



## LA VIM CELEBRATION '99

February 28, 1999

4-7 p.m.

Louisiana Conference Center

*"Everything and every opportunity you might want to know about Volunteers in Mission (VIM)."*

## Don't miss:

Dr. Kenneth Lutgen as the keynote speaker. Louisiana UMs will remember Dr. Lutgen as deputy general secretary at the GBGM and CEO of UMCOR during its response to Hurricane Andrew when the Depot was established at the Sager-Brown facility in Baldwin. He has trained and deployed vast numbers of volunteers and now pastors a large church in St. Louis, Mo.

## There will be:

- displays and team members to tell you about VIM projects they've been on at home and around the world!
- displays and team leaders to tell you about upcoming missions in 1999!
- displays and information on How-To Participate in Disaster Response!
- displays on mission destinations for youth!
- a meeting for all medical personnel interested in sharing their gifts and time in the mission field!
- a "Sending Forth Ceremony" led by Bishop Dan Solomon!

Watch for registration forms coming to your church soon. Call the VIM office at (888) 239-5286 for more information.



VIMers work with children in Bolivia on a recent mission. Photo by Larry Norman

## The meaning of the season ... in your words

*Editor's Note: The following excerpts were taken from among the many local church, institutional or district newsletters around the Louisiana Conference. If we are not on your church newsletter mailing list, please send it to: Editor, 527 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.*

Christmas! The season of giving, the season of joy, the season of good will, the season of celebration, the season of God's gift of himself to us, and our gift of ourselves to one another.

I like stretching Christmas out. In fact, let me suggest that we try to stretch it the other direction, too--this year, let's stretch Christmas, and stretch it, and stretch it--let's stretch it all the way to December 1999!

**Rev. Bob Hollis, Pastor  
Memorial UMC, Monroe**

Several years ago I ran across a poem by W. D. Dorrity that allows me to stop and check my attitude about the Advent season and the true purpose for celebrating:

*The Love That Lives*

Every child on earth is holy,  
Every crib is a manger lowly,  
Every home is a stable dim,  
Every kind word is a hymn.  
Every star is God's own gem,  
And every town is Bethlehem,  
For Christ is born and born again,

When His love lives in hearts of men.

**Rev. Walter Parker, Jr., Pastor  
First UMC, Lake Providence**

When Christ entered our world, he did not come just to brighten our December, but to transform our lives. It can be hard work to practice good will towards one another. But, as we prepare for Christ to come into our lives, we can change our ways. This season, let us recognize that just as faith is a decision, good will towards others is a series of decisions that work themselves out not just in holiday cheer, but in cheer every day of our lives.

**Rev. Chris Blanchard  
Pastor, Carpenter's Chapel  
UMC, Prairieville**

The manger is where we learn how vulnerable and helpless we are. It is the place where we realize the kingdom of God is an upside down kingdom. Identifying with that child in the manger helps us learn about our



need for our Heavenly father's care. In that manger we realize that God's Kingdom is made up of the poor, the broken, the needy, the least, the lost, the one's with no power of their own.

**Dr. Douglas Ezell, Director,  
Methodist Home for Children,  
New Orleans**

Never has a gift been more original than the Gift God gave the world at what we now call Christmas. The Gift of Bethlehem was God Himself. Originality in gifts and giving began and ended when God gave Himself to become human.

The God-originated Gift brought with it life, light, purpose, hope, direction and salvation. The Gift made possible the restoration of the divine-human relationship that was God's original gift in the Creation. The Gift made plain the original and unique gift of the love of God for all who would see and believe.

**Rev. Ken Bowman, Pastor  
First UMC, Amite**

The birth of Christ brought a whole new dimension into the

world. God had been viewed as being holy and essentially above the affairs of persons. Where He was viewed as being involved, it was in a condemning way.

Perhaps the most exciting sentence in the gospel of John is: "For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

THIS is the ringing Good News of Christmas: God is on our side. He is seeking us out. He is seeking not to destroy us, but to redeem us.

**Leland Wade, pastor  
First UMC, Mansfield and  
Grand Cane UMC**

It (Advent) means that our soul must become a "Bethlehem" in which Jesus comes to be born again. This season tells us that Christ is coming into our lives and it is now time to trust the faithfulness and goodness of God amid the rise and fall of the best and worst in human experience.

**Rev. Grayson B. Watson  
North Shore District  
Superintendent**



# AROUND THE CONFERENCE NEWS

## Looking for renewal? Winn can help

"Blessed are they that hear the word of God." Luke 1:1:28



**Carole Cotton Winn**

The Center for Pastoral Effectiveness is beginning a new quest to touch the soul life of UM congregations by providing occasions for spiritual renewal.

Learn how to embrace the sacred in your life day by day and to slow down and hear the still, small voice of God.

Rev. Carole Cotton Winn, director of Spiritual Renewal for the The Center, is available to local church groups (at no charge) to lead one or two-day retreats at the Conference Center.

Interested? For more details, contact her at: The Center for Pastoral Effectiveness, 199 Trenton Drive, Slidell, LA 70461 or call 504-639-9531

## Have yourself a very beary Christmas!



The United Methodist Mission Center in Baton Rouge collected 300 teddy bears to give to children and adults alike this Christmas season. Smaller bears were for children, larger ones for grown-ups. "It's a way of nurturing the adults," said Director Genny Mandujano. (See related story on front page.)

Photo by Josh Lewis

## Grammy-nominated group to perform New Year's Eve

Don't let your church's youth group miss an exciting event New Year's Eve at the Conference Center.

SMALLTOWN POETS, one of the top Christian rock groups in the U.S., will perform at a "Giant of a Concert" beginning at 8 p.m. Two local Christian rock bands--"Green # 7" and "Bliss"--will open for the Grammy-nominated group. SMALLTOWN POETS' top hits include "Prophet, Priest, and King" and "If You'll Let Me Love You." Both have been charted as No. 1 hits on many national reporting services including Billboard Magazine.

The groups are appearing as part of the Youth New Year's Retreat geared for youth of all denominations led by Rev. Lisa Lucas of First UMC, Alexandria.

Call (318) 449-4500 for reservations or information.



**SMALLTOWN POETS**

## Coming soon

The **Souper Bowl of Caring**, an interdenominational youth effort to glorify God and take care of the "least of these our brothers" by encouraging people to give one dollar each as they leave worship on Super Bowl Sunday, will take place this year on Jan. 31. The 1998 effort generated a record \$1.7 million.

Each congregation selects and sends the money directly to the charity of its choice. If your church is interested in participating, contact organizers at (800) 358-SOUP or visit their website at:

[www.souperbowl.com](http://www.souperbowl.com).

The **General Board of Discipleship** is introducing a **Racial/Ethnic Summer Intern Program** beginning in June which will provide a short-term (app. 10 weeks) service and learning opportunity for three students. Applicants must be rising college juniors, seniors or graduate students interested in the work of a general agency as it seeks to support the local church in its ministries.

The deadline for applications is Jan. 15. For information contact: Office of Human Resources, Gen. Board of Discipleship, P.O. Box 840, Nashville, Tenn., 37202. Phone: (615) 340-7100 or E-mail: [jsuiter@gbod.org](mailto:jsuiter@gbod.org).

The **Centenary College Choir** and its alumni have opened to the public two **international tours** in 1999. The Choir will travel to South Africa May 10-23 and the Alumni will tour the heart of Europe July 5-19. Brochures are available by calling (318) 429-6887.

**1999**

## CONFERENCE Program Calendar

### January

- 4-5 SCJ Church Growth and Development, New Orleans
- 5-8 Congress on Evangelism, Fairmont Hotel, New Orleans
- 8-9 The Academy for Spiritual Leadership, Conference Center
- 11-15 Perkins School of Youth Ministry
- 12-14 District Missioners, Baton Rouge
- 13-14 Cabinet Meeting, Baton Rouge
- 15-16 VIM Leader Training, Conference Center
- 15-17 Happening #13, Conference Center
- 16 Conference Center Board Meeting
- 21-24 Cursillo #70, Conference Center
- 22-23 CCYM Meeting
- 24 UMW Sunday
- 25-27 Spiritual Renewal Retreat (for appointed), Conference Center
- 28-Feb. 2 National Camp Leaders, Epworth By the Sea, St. Simons, GA
- 29-31 National Association of Council Directors, Dallas

## Louisiana Conference Edition of the United Methodist Review

Dan E. Solomon, Bishop

### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Dr. Rena Yocom, Area Director, Gospel Communications  
Bobbie Armstrong, Editor  
Joshua Lewis, Contributing Writer  
Dr. Alonzo Campbell

Subscriptions: \$12.50 per year  
(Please make checks payable to Louisiana Annual Conference.)

Send subscriptions, news and information to:  
Editor

527 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
1 (888) 239-5286

(225)346-1646, (225) 383-2652 fax

Please do not fax articles; send original typed copy--not all caps. Thanks!

(NEW) e-mail: [editor@premier.net](mailto:editor@premier.net)

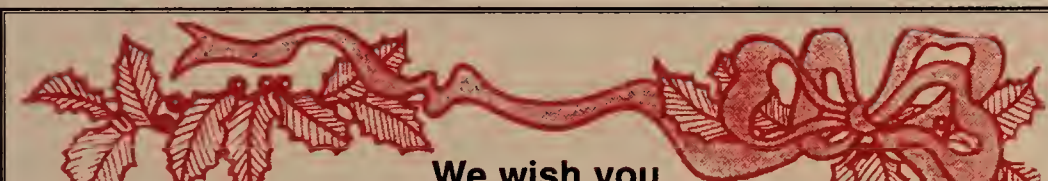
### On the Web

You can find the Louisiana Annual Conference on the Internet at

<http://www.gbpm-umc.org/louisiana-conference/>

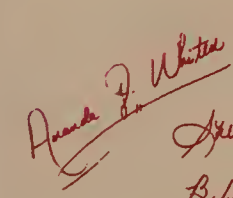
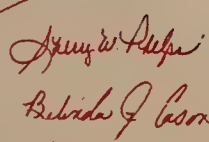
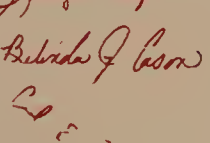
### DEADLINE FOR:

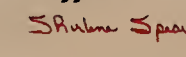
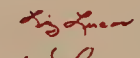
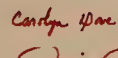
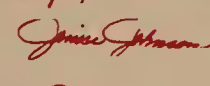
January 22 Issue--January 11  
February 5 Issue--January 25

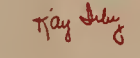
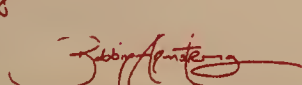


**We wish you  
a very merry Christmas and a  
joyous New Year!**

*The Conference Office Staff*

## Important Notice to Readers!

**The LUM Review will not publish an issue on Jan. 8.**

**We will reappear in your mailboxes with our Jan. 22 issue.**